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STEVE CARELL ON THE MAGIC OF COMEDY

{pages 24-25}

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WEEKEND
BOSTON
March 15-17, 2013

Theater, music, dance, comedy and gallery shows are all in full bloom this season

More than 40 happenings in the near future to get psyched about {pages 10-15}

music

Nick Cave brings the heat to Texas

The lead Bad Seed waited until nightfall to bring his fire-and-brimstone set to life

What other acts sizzled on night two of SXSW {page 20}

sports

Embracing the cranky, old Celtics {page 30}

Appeals court: Bulger to have new, impartial judge for trial

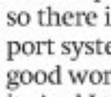
The federal appeals court in Massachusetts has decided to remove the judge in the James "Whitey" Bulger trial, which comes as a win for the alleged mob boss due for trial in June.

A panel of judges for the First Circuit Court of Appeals issued the ruling Thursday that removes federal Judge Richard Stearns. Bulger's lawyer, J.W. Carney Jr., has argued that Stearns' work in the U.S. Attorney's Office at the time Bulger was alleged to be committing his crimes creates an impartiality. He has also argued that Stearns may be called as a witness as issues regarding Bulger's claim of immunity are decided.

The appeals court judges sided with Carney and Bulger.

"With great respect for the trial judge, we nonetheless grant the petition, because it is clear that a reasonable person would question the capacity for impartiality of any judicial officer with the judge's particular background in federal prosecutorial apparatus in Boston during the period covered by the accusations," the appeals judges wrote in their 17-page ruling.

Stearns had yet to decide on one aspect of Bulger's immunity claim, and it is unclear how that issue — and his previous pretrial rulings on the case — will now be handled.



Michael Naughton
michael.naughton@metro.us

Next steps

Federal judges in the District of Massachusetts are assigned to cases on a random basis. It is unclear who will be the new judge to oversee the Bulger case and when the selection will take place.

Sarah Thornton, clerk of the court, would not say when the judicial assignment would take place. She said she could not comment on pending litigation.

Ortiz's office said that the Department of Justice would not seek to appeal the First Circuit's decision.

▶ Bulger

Date unknown

Bulger was scheduled to go to trial in June. Carney has repeatedly said he will be ready to go to trial in June, but with a new judge having to be assigned to the case, it was not immediately clear if that date will remain.

Trial delay?

It remains to be seen whether a new judge would push back the June start date of Bulger's trial, but U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts Carmen Ortiz said that her office will continue to prepare for trial.

"We are hopeful that this opinion will not cause a delay, as it has always been our goal to try this case as soon as possible. The victims' families have waited long enough," she said.

Bulger's lawyer J.W. Carney Jr. said his intent has always been to have Bulger testify at trial about his immunity and call witnesses relating to that, including current judges.

Carney did not respond to a question about whether he would seek to have the trial date pushed back with the latest decision.

In the news

200K

Boston received one of 12 federal grants to help address domestic violence homicides, the mayor's office announced Thursday. The Boston Public Health Commission's Family Justice Center will use the money for a one-year program to assess how systems identify and respond to potential victims and by making recommendations for improved practices METRO

Today's local tweet

"Don't know what's more inconsistent, Taylor Swift's relationships or the MBTA. #mbta"

@THE_SITU_ATION, WHO MADE TWO DIGS WITH ONE TWEET

What's goes around. Is coming around

▶ The Rose Kennedy Greenway is expected to look like this artist's rendering by the fall.

TIFFANY & CO. NEW ENGLAND

Greenway to become 'Carousel Park'

Boston's Greenway will soon start a $1.5 million transformation into what its conservancy describes as a "robust" and "beautifully landscaped" park, complete with a new merry-go-round and comfortable furnishings. The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy on Thursday announced the gift from the Tiffany & Co. Foundation, which will fund the new "Carousel Park." The project will include a permanent carousel with custom characters like lobsters, cods, butterflies, skunks, sea turtles and sea lions; a grove of trees; a garden perimeter and park furnishings. Construction is set to start Monday and wrap up in September. METRO

In the news

Jimmy Fund wants your ideas

A new Jimmy Fund contest wants your ideas on how to raise money in the name of cancer research and patient care.

The Jimmy Fund Big Ideas Contest, which runs through April 21, is offering a week-long Caribbean vacation and other prizes for the best fundraising idea.

Ideas can be an event, an app, a product, a corporate promotion or something new on social media. Individuals or teams of up to four people can participate, all vying to be one of five finalists to present their idea at a Jimmy Fund Big Ideas judging event in June. METRO

100K

A spokeswoman for the contest said ideas should be creative and sustainable, and capable of raising $100,000 or more each year.

4

Four people per team

The Boston Phoenix closes after 47 years

Friday, after nearly 50 years of delivering alternative news, The Boston Phoenix printed its final issue and bid farewell to its masses of loyal readers.

Citing "significant financial losses," the arts and news weekly announced Thursday that it was closing down immediately, along with its online radio station, WFNX.com. Its final online edition is scheduled for March 22.

Executive Editor Peter Kadzis, a 25-year veteran of the Phoenix, said that staff members were "shell-shocked" after hearing the news Thursday afternoon, "especially the younger staff members."

"People are very close here, so there is a strong mutual support system. People have done good work. They are proud of it. And I think they realize that this will stand them in good stead as they move forward looking for their next gig," Kadzis said. "In journalism, a stint at the Phoenix tends to be worth something."

The publication endured "extremely difficult times" due to the economic crisis beginning in 2007 and radical changes in the media, according to its publisher, Stephen Mindich, who said the recently reinvented magazine was unable to reverse its financial losses despite the valiant effort of its staff.

Mindich also said The Phoenix had "an extraordinary run," and thanked its staff, as well as readers and advertisers, "without whom none of what we did accomplish could have been possible or meaningful."

The Phoenix's sister publications in Providence, R.I., and Portland, Maine, will remain open. MORGAN ROUSSEAU

Quoted

"Thank you Boston, good night and good luck."

THE PHOENIX TWEETED ITS READERS AFTER NEWS OF ITS CLOSING SPREAD THURSDAY

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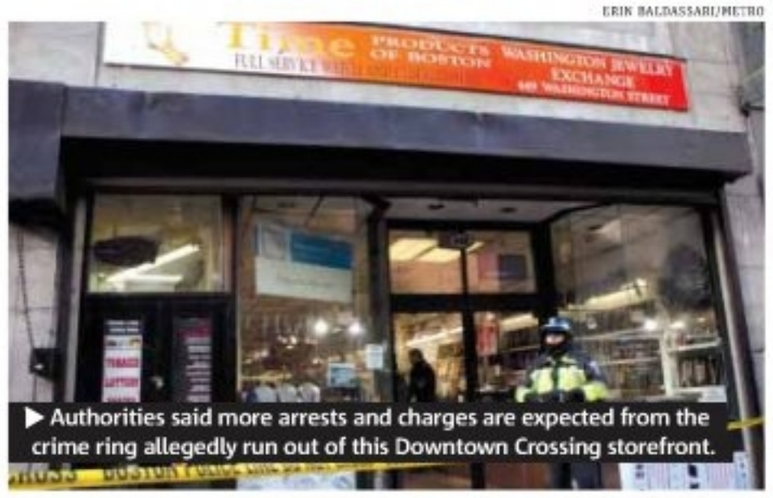
Man stole IDs to resell smartphones in DTX crime ring, AG says

ERIK BALDASSARI/METRO



▶ Authorities said more arrests and charges are expected from the crime ring allegedly run out of this Downtown Crossing storefront.

▶ Yousheei

The alleged leader of an "extensive criminal enterprise" in Downtown Crossing was arrested Thursday in an undercover operation by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, authorities said.

During a news conference Thursday afternoon, Attorney General Martha Coakley said that the scheme involved stolen and fraudulent identities, phony credit cards and the reselling of smartphones.

Shahab "David" Yousheei, 36, of Brighton, faces multiple charges including identity theft, illegal possession of a credit card encoder and making purchases with a false credit card. He was arrested after buying counterfeit money, authorities said.

Coakely said Yousheei, who operated a kiosk at 449 Washington St., used stolen identities to open mobile-phone accounts and pay runners to buy discounted smartphones who then returned them to him so he could sell them at a higher price from his Downtown Crossing shop. He also allegedly created phony credit cards using real and stolen numbers and made-up names. He would then allegedly use an encoder that would allow the cards to appear legitimate when making a purchase.

"In many ways this case illustrates the new face of crime, one that uses computers as weapon of choice and one that robs people of their identities instead of their possessions," Coakley said, adding that the investigation included "extensive" undercover work and started in August.

Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis said that local officers were also investigating allegations that Yousheei was buying stolen jewelry at his store, melting it down and selling it.

Coakley estimated that the operation netted tens of thousands of dollars but that the total was likely higher.

Michael Naughton
michael.naughton@metro.us

Check your credit

- Coakley urged anyone who made a purchase from the shop to immediately check his or her credit report.
- Because of the way the alleged scheme worked, a fraudulent purchase may not show up on a credit card statement but would on a credit report.

In the news

YO! bus line launches in Boston today, replaces Fung Wah

Travelers who regularly bounce between Boston and New York took a hit in the name of safety last month when the federal government shut down the Fung Wah bus company. But that void was filled Thursday thanks to a new bus line that claims to offer "safe and affordable" trips.

YO! will run six daily round trips between New York's Chinatown neighborhood and Boston's South Station.

According to the company, the nonstop service, which launched on Dec. 18 between New York and Philadelphia, offers "onboard amenities such as a guaranteed seat, extra legroom with comfortable leather seating, free Wi-Fi and power outlets."

Tickets, which run as low as $12 and according to its website as high as $24, are now on sale at www.yobus.com.

The bus line is jointly operated by Greyhound and Peter Pan Bus Lines.

METRO/MR

Fung Wah

- The federal Department of Transportation declared an "imminent hazard" and shut down the Fung Wah bus company on Feb. 26, after multiple inspections found dangers in the physical structure of buses.

ERIK BALDASSARI/METRO

SideCar launches in Hub, lets users hail rides with strangers

A user enters desired pickup and drop-off locations and is connected with a willing driver App deemed successful in several other cities

Starting Friday, Bostonians will have a new, cheap ride at their fingertips, but there's a catch – they have to ditch that little voice that warns against getting into cars with strangers.

SideCar, a free ride-sharing app that lets users grab a lift with drivers in their area, is launching in Boston, a city known for its transportation troubles.

Users tell the app where they want to be picked up and dropped off, then they are connected with a willing driver.

The compensation is donation-based.

While the idea of getting into a car with a stranger may startle some, co-founder Nick Allen said there have been no reports of sketchy or violent activity since the company launched in San Francisco last June. "There is the mental hurdle of getting into a stranger's car, but the safety precautions that we take are as vigorous as most taxi companies. Every single ride is GPS tracked, and we do full background checks on drivers."

Until now, the app has been available in San Francisco, Seattle, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Austin. According to Allen, tens of thousands of users have hailed more than 100,000 rides.

"It's like getting a ride from a friend. You sit in the front seat and have 10- or 15-minute conversations with people. There is a sense of community."

SIDECAR

"It's like getting a ride from a friend. You sit in the front seat and have 10- or 15-minute conversations. ... There is a sense of community."
ALLEN

▶ The SideCar app connects people in need of rides with drivers, for suggested donations

Morgan Rousseau
morgan.rousseau@metro.us

In the news

Police pull body from Charles River

CAMBRIDGE. State police said the body of a person was pulled from the Charles River on Thursday. Police responded to the area near the Massachusetts Avenue bridge around noon. The body was pulled out of the water by the Marine Unit. The incident is under investigation. METRO

T seeks woman who spat on driver

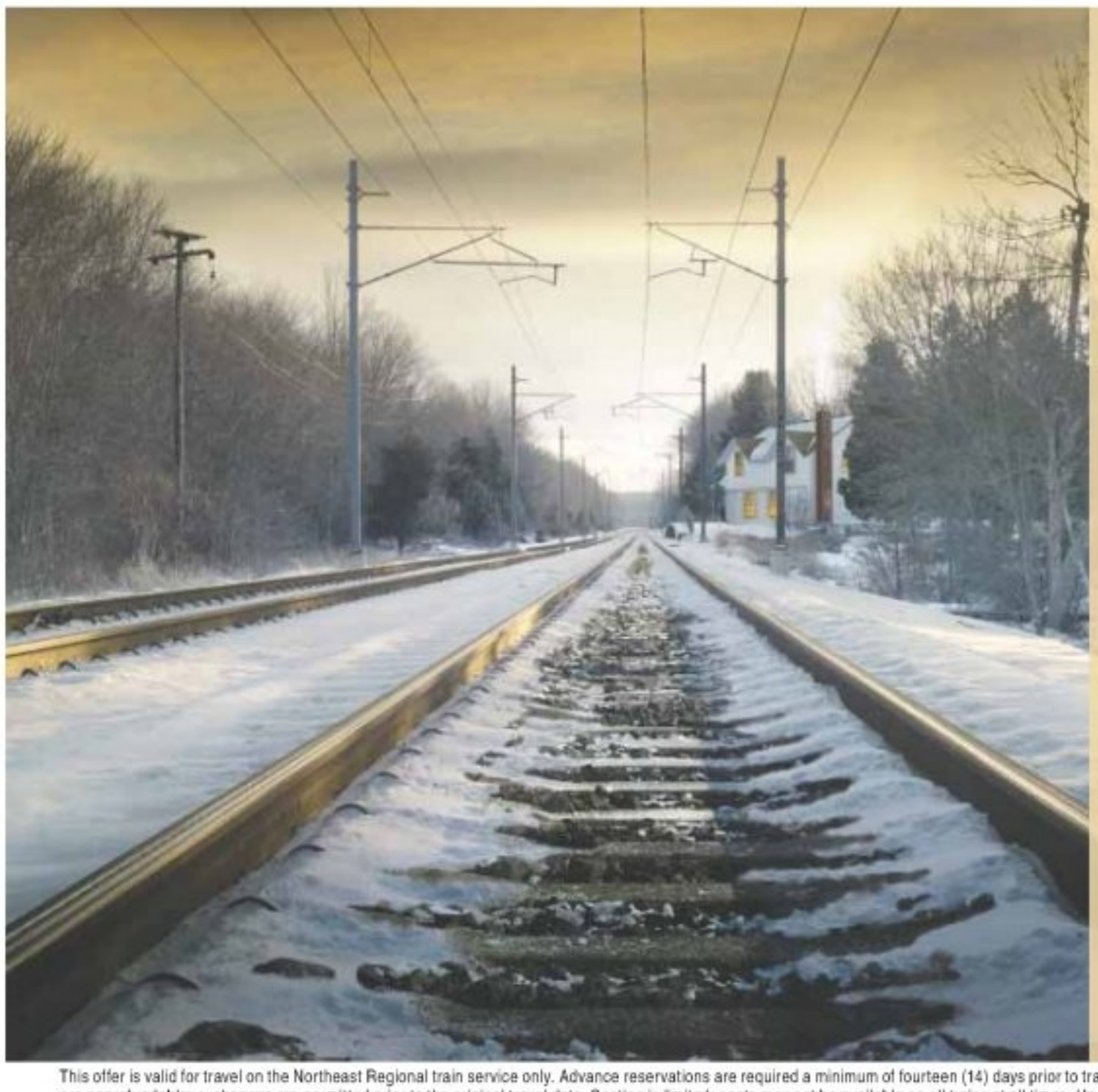
BOSTON. Transit Police hope to identify a woman who was caught on camera allegedly spitting on an MBTA bus driver last week at Ashmont Station in Dorchester. The suspect spat in the driver's face after being told to leave the bus for not paying her fare, police said. METRO

Teen girl arrested in T bus beating

BOSTON. Transit police on Thursday arrested a 15-year-old girl who they suspect may have participated in the group beating of a MBTA bus driver. The girl, who officers said is from Hyde Park, is the second suspect to be arrested in connection to the attack, which police said included more than a dozen youths. On Wednesday, an 18-year-old Roxbury man was charged with assault and battery and wrongful interference of a bus. METRO

▶ This suspect is thought to be the spitter.

TRANSIT POLICE



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New pope pays his own bill; fast-food fiasco

The gun debate

▶ Polls show a majority of Americans back the ban.

GETTY IMAGES

US Senate panel backs Obama bid to renew assault weapons ban

WASHINGTON. President Barack Obama's bid to renew a ban against military-style assault weapons narrowly won the backing of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday and now goes to the full Senate, where it was expected to fail.

On a party-line vote of 10-8, the Democratic-led panel approved a bill to renew a ban similar to one that expired in 2004. The measure would also limit high-capacity ammunition clips to 10 bullets.

Military-style assault weapons have been the weapon of choice in a number of recent U.S. massacres, including one at a elementary school in Newtown, Conn., on Dec. 14 that left 20 children and six adults dead. **REUTERS**

Less is more

Google to shut Reader Web feed app as users vent

SAN FRANCISCO. Google said it will shut Google Reader on July 1, citing declining usage for the application that compiles content served by Web feeds, as it forges ahead with its strategy to focus on fewer products that have more impact.

Google Reader aggregates feeds in RSS (rich site summary) — a format for creating streams from changing Web content — and makes it easy to discover websites of interest and keep tabs on them. **REUTERS**

Checking out

Pope returns to hotel — to pay bill

ROME. Pope Francis returned on Thursday to the Church-run residence where he was staying before becoming pontiff, and insisted on paying the bill, despite now effectively being in charge of the business, the Vatican said.

The morning after his election, Francis asked a driver to take him to the clerics' hotel, the Domus Internationalis Paulus VI, where he had stayed during the run-up to this week's conclave. **REUTERS**

Sorry about that

Joe Biden's office apologizes to student forced to delete pics

WASHINGTON. Vice President Joe Biden's press office has apologized to a student reporter who was asked by a volunteer staffer to delete photos taken at a vice presidential event near Washington.

The student took photos of Biden at a domestic violence event in Rockville, Md., while outside of the designated press area. A volunteer staffer not accustomed to dealing with media asked the reporter to delete the photos. **REUTERS**

McCondom?

Lawsuit says boy, 2, ate used condom at McDonald's play area in Chicago

NEW YORK. McDonald's Corp has been sued by a woman who said her 2-year-old son ate a used condom he found in the play area of one of its restaurants in Chicago.

Anishi Spencer filed the complaint against the fast-food restaurant chain on Wednesday in Cook County Circuit Court on behalf of herself and her sons, Jonathan Hines and Jacquel Hines. **REUTERS**

$50K

The lawsuit seeks at least $50,000 of damages.

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In the news

GETTY IMAGES

Obama tries new tack with Israel, appealing to wary public

WASHINGTON. After nearly four years of often testy relations with Benjamin Netanyahu, U.S. President Barack Obama is about to try a different tack — going over the head of Israel's prime minister and appealing directly to the Israeli people.

Obama's first presidential visit to Israel next week, while certainly including meetings with Netanyahu, will focus heavily on resetting his relationship with the country's wary public as he seeks to reassure them he is committed to their security and has their interests at heart.

All signs say that Obama hopes the strategy will give him more leverage with the right-wing Netanyahu — politically weakened by January's election in which centrists made surprising gains — to pursue a peaceful resolution with Iran and eventually address the Israeli-Palestinian stalemate.

But it will be no easy task.

Obama faces the challenge of overcoming Israeli suspicions that have lingered since his early days in office when he pressed Netanyahu for a freeze on settlement expansion and launched a short-lived outreach to Tehran, Israel's arch-foe. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"It's an opportunity for him to connect with the Israeli psyche."

DENNIS ROSS, OBAMA'S FORMER MIDDLE EAST ADVISER

THE VATICAN'S CLOCK

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN

letters@metro.us

CNN = POLITICS

An old joke goes something like this: "Hello, you've reached the Vatican. If you have a problem, leave a message, we'll get back to you in 400 years." Time has always been a relative thing in the Catholic Church, and that is worth bearing in mind as expectations rise for the new pope.

About a quarter of all Americans call themselves Catholic, and they have been acutely aware of the challenges facing their church: sexual abuse scandals, fierce debates over the role of women, abortion rights, contraception, the list goes on. Against that backdrop, the Pew Research Center has found that the number of self-identified "strong" Catholics is steadily declining. Some in the church believe a fundamental reason for the problems and the slide among the faithful is that the hierarchy — the priests, bishops, cardinals, and even the pope — moves far too slowly in making any changes.

And yet, if religious scholars are to be trusted, Pope Francis is unlikely to alter that in any substantial way. Yes, he represents many "firsts" that have the laity excited. He is the first person from the Western Hemisphere, the first Jesuit, the first to take on the hallowed name of Saint Francis of Assisi. Yes, he has already established that it won't be business as usual in the Vatican.

But consider this: Latinos have been relentlessly rising in the church for decades, so much so that they now comprise almost half of the worldwide flock and Pope Francis is one of them. And they represent growth driven by, in general, theologically conservative values. So even if he convenes a great council of cardinals, parish priests, and church members alike, even if he flings wide the doors and asks the world to help him develop a way forward, the kinds of substantial changes that some American Catholics might want — changes to make the church more accountable and modern in its thinking while not surrendering the faith's basic tenets — could still be a long way off.

Quoted

"Latinos have been rising in the church for decades."

Because remember, even when you speed up the Vatican's clock, it still runs very slowly.

*– CNN's **Tom Foreman** is a regular on "AC360°"/ www.ac360.com and "The Situation Room."*

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Options for Reducing Your Mortgage Payment:	9:00-10:00 am
How to Hire a Contractor:	10:00 -11:00 am
Home Repair Programs (includes 3D!):	12:00 - 1:00 pm

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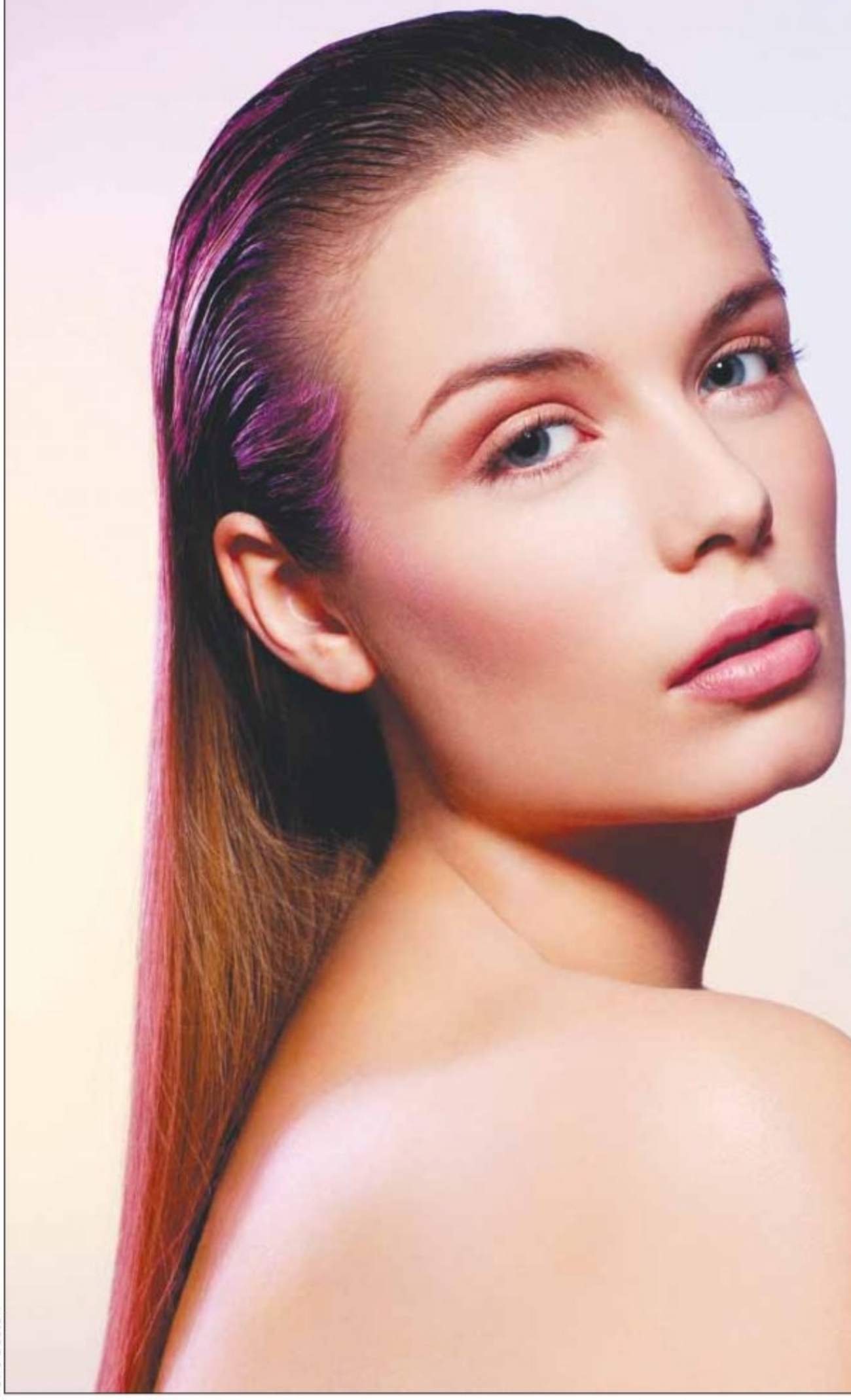

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2

WEEKEND

Pirates, Mormons and a teenage Charlie Brown

Theater guide

Spring is in the air and the theaters are in full bloom with colorful characters. Metro advises on which ones you simply should not miss.

MARCH

'Dog Sees God'
Through March 30
The Factory Theatre
791 Tremont St., Boston
$15-$20, 617-549-9854
www.happymediumtheatre.com
We know them as cute, quirky, ironic-beyond-their-years grade schoolers. But in this dark parody, the "Peanuts" gang has aged into a group of troubled and hormonal teenagers — good grief! Sally's a goth, Linus is a pothead, and Schroeder is the school outcast in the Happy Medium Theatre's production of "Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead." You don't even want to know what happens to Snoopy. Charles M. Schulz would probably not approve.

'By The Way, Meet Vera Stark'
March 29 through April 27
Lyric Stage
140 Clarendon St., Boston
$25-$58, 617-585-5678
www.lyricstage.com
Playwright Lynn Nottage (the Pulitzer Prize winner behind the heartbreaking "Ruined") explores racial stereotypes in this comedy about 1930s Hollywood. When theatergoers first meet Vera Stark, she's an aspiring African-American actor working as a maid for an aging Hollywood star. By chance, the two women land roles in the same movie — but it's Vera who steals the show. In the second act, set 70 years later, the now-famous performer discusses her life and legacy.

Ryan Landry's "M"
March 29 through April 27
Virginia Wimberly Theatre
527 Tremont St., Boston
$25-$80, 617-266-0800
www.huntingtontheatre.org
Fritz Lang's 1931 thriller "M" has been transformed into a screwball stage show under the direction of Ryan Landry. The co-founder of beloved Boston fringe theater company the Gold Dust Orphans incorporates puppets, cross-dressers and cabaret glitz into the show — perhaps not the first images that come to mind when imagining a plot about a child murderer. Needless to say, this adaptation comes with a warning label: not for the squeamish.

APRIL

'Beowulf – A Thousand Years of Baggage'
April 16 though May 5
Oberon
2 Arrow St., Cambridge
$15-$25, 617-547-8300
www.amrep.org
The A.R.T. has a knack for transforming titles from your old

MARCH

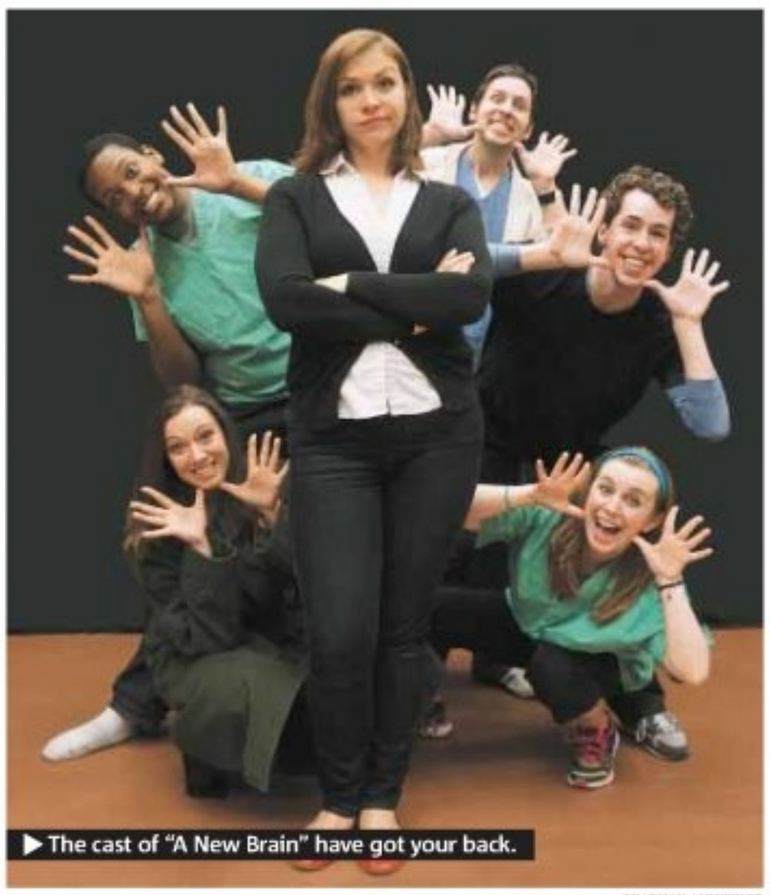
'Clybourne Park'
Through March 30
539 Tremont St., Boston
$25-$57, 617-933-8600
www.speakeasystage.com
This Pulitzer Prize-winning play takes two different looks at the same house, 50 years apart. In the first act, set in 1959, a black family is set to move into the house, located in a white community, and the townsfolk do everything they can to stop it. In the second act, the conflict facing the house is gentrification in 2009, when the neighborhood has become predominantly African-American.

JOAN MARCUS

▶ They're here, they're "Mormon," get used to it.

APRIL

'Book of Mormon'
April 9 through 28
Boston Opera House
539 Washington St., Boston
$26-$194, 800-982-2787
boston.broadway.com
The much-discussed, critically-acclaimed and record-breaking 2011 Broadway hit "Book of Mormon" is coming to the Hub. The creators of "South Park" wrote this hilarious musical satire about two naïve Mormon missionaries sent to convert poor, AIDS-stricken Ugandans. The show pokes fun at the absurdity of organized religion. It's offensive in the best possible way.



▶ The cast of "A New Brain" have got your back.

SHARMAN ALTSHULER

MARCH

'A New Brain'
Through April 6
BCA Plaza Theatre
527 Tremont St., Boston
$25-$35, 617-933-8600
www.moonboxproductions.org
Natick native and Tony Award winner William Finn wrote this somewhat autobiographical musical shortly after undergoing a sudden brain operation. When the story opens, a composer sits at his piano struggling with a less-than-stellar assignment for a hokey children's TV show. When he's hit with a life-threatening disorder, the songwriter worries he'll die and never compose his greatest works, but the emergency surgery that ensues changes his perspective and opens up a wave of creativity.

Special thanks

Arts in Boston with ArtsBoston

Listings were written by Metro writers Nora Dunne and Matthew Dinaro. Listing assistance was provided by ArtsBoston.org, Boston's premier arts and entertainment online calendar, putting Boston's arts at your fingertips.

MATTHEW GREGORY HOLLIS

▶ From left, Christine Stulik, Emily Casey and Lindsey Gavel are hipsters at a beach bash or actors in "The Pirates of Penzance." You decide.

MAY

'Pirates of Penzance'

May 10 through June 2
Loeb Drama Center
64 Brattle St., Cambridge
$25-$35, 617-547-8300
www.amrep.org
Chicago-based theater troupe Hypocrites brought their adaptation of Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance" to the A.R.T. last year. They're back with the same fun comic operetta this May. Think whimsical wordplay, performers in short-shorts strumming ukuleles and some not-so-menacing pirates. Or: hipsters at a beach bash.

high school reading list into rollicking parties — just ask anyone who's spent a Saturday night gyrating with disco pixies at "The Donkey Show." So it's not hard to accept "Beowulf" reimagined as a rowdy journey infused with punk, electronica and jazz music. Actually, this epic poem written a thousand years ago was meant to be enjoyed this way: out-loud by storytellers in festival halls.

'Trojan Women'
April 17 through 21
Cutler Majestic Theatre
219 Tremont St., Boston
$25-$75, 617-824-8400
www.artsemerson.org
This play is even older than "Beowulf." Greek playwright Euripides produced the tragedy in 415 B.C., during the Peloponnesian War. The piece centers on four royal women of Troy who await enslavement and exile.

MAY

'Distracted'
May 9 though June 2
Central Square Theater
450 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
$15-$40, 866-811-4111
www.centralsquaretheater.org
Are you reading this newspaper while messaging your friend while listening to music? Playwright Lisa Loomer looks at our culture, technology and family relationships through the eyes of a set of parents debating what to do about their hyperactive 9-year-old. Does he have ADD? Should they medicate him? And does their son really even have a problem, or do they? Hold on —you just got a text. NORA DUNNE

WFT

MAY

▶ Wheelock Family Theatre doesn't need a two-person horse for their production of "Pippi Longstocking."

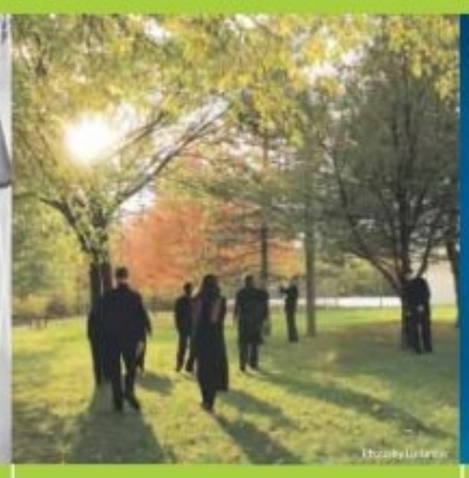
'Pippi Longstocking'

April 12 through May 12
Wheelock Family Theatre
200 The Riverway, Boston
$20-$30, 617-879-2300
www.wheelockfamily theatre.org
The Wheelock Family Theatre continues its tradition of bringing classic children's literary characters to life. Pippi, based on Swedish author Astrid Lindgren's book series, is a free-spirited redhead in pigtails undaunted by any challenge. Better yet: She loves to make fun of grown-ups. Another option for the kids this spring is the Boston Children's Theatre's production of "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day."

2013 BosTix SPRING ARTS

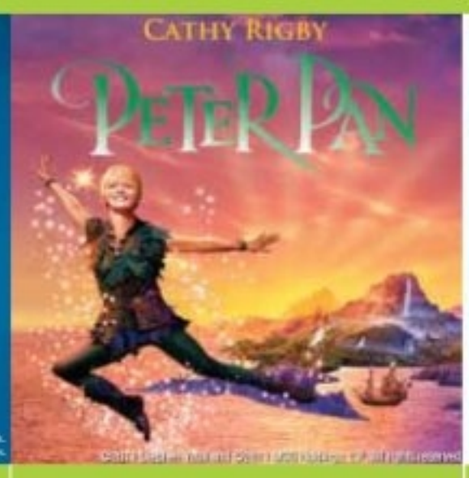
BOSTIX.ORG
½ PRICE TICKETS AND MORE

By The Way, Meet Vera Stark
Lyric Stage Company of Boston
March 29 - April 27
~~Full Price: $40-45~~
BosTix Price: $21-$23



Chansons de printemps
Blue Heron Renaissance Choir
May 4
~~Full Price: $30~~
BosTix Price: $15

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Celebrity Series of Boston
May 16 - May 19
~~Full Price: $55~~
BosTix Price: $27.50



Cathy Rigby is Peter Pan
Citi Performing Arts Center
April 23 - April 28
~~Full Price: $75 - $90~~
BosTix Price: $44-$52

Ryan Landry's "M"
Huntington Theatre Company
March 29 – April 27
~~Full Price: $60-80~~
BosTix Price: $31-$41

New Offers Added Daily!
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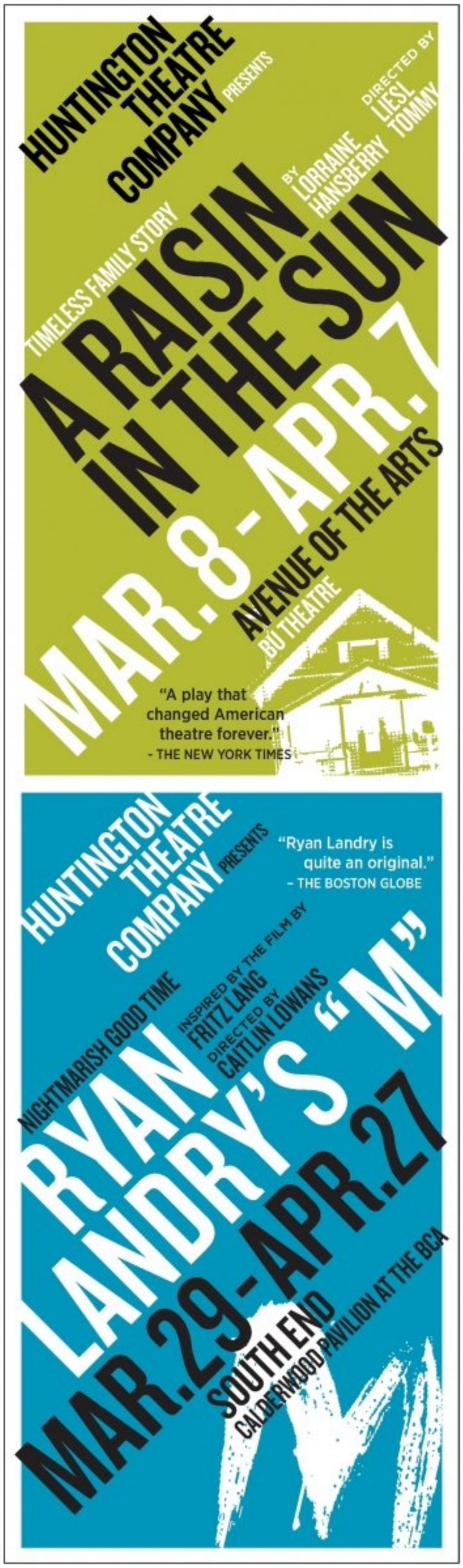
A PROGRAM OF ARTSBOSTON



spring arts guide

A SOUNDTRACK TO SPRINGTIME

Music guide

MARCH

'Cosi Fan Tutte'
Through March 24
Citi Shubert Theatre
265 Tremont St., Boston
$30-$225, 617-542-6772
www.blo.org
The Boston Lyric Opera presents a Mozart opera about fiancee-swapping (apparently that used to be a thing). Two officers gamble that both of their fiancees will be forever faithful, then proceed to hit on each other's honeys to win the bet. Highly esteemed British baritone Thomas Allen appears in his signature role as Don Alfonso in his BLO debut. The show, though traditionally sung in Italian, will be done in English.

Mozart, Thomas and Saint-Saens
Through March 16
Symphony Hall
301 Mass. Ave., Boston
$30-$114, 888-266-1200
www.bso.org
Classic cellist Lynn Harrell is the featured soloist in American composer Augusta Read Thomas's Cello Concerto No. 3. It's a Boston Symphony Orchestra world premiere. Also on the program are Saint-Saens's Symphony No. 3—with first-time BSO performer Olivier Latry, a French organist—and Mozart's Symphony No. 41. Nicknamed "Jupiter," the latter was the great composer's last and longest symphony. National Symphony Orchestra musical director Christophe Eschenback conducts.

Freshlyground
March 17, The Paradise
967 Comm. Ave., Boston
$20-$25, 617-876-4275
www.worldmusic.org
The seven members of this Afro-pop band are superstars in South Africa. Never heard of them? Think again: They're featured in Shakira's hit song "Waka Wake (This Time for Africa)." And they're just as catchy without the Colombian bombshell. Listen to tracks from any of their five albums and you'll hear sounds of Zulu folk, reggae and mbira (a popular African instrument also called a "thumb piano").

Seize the Day!
March 23 and 24
NEC's Jordan Hall
30 Gainsborough St., Boston

SCARPETTA PHOTOGRAPHY

▶ It's always a fun time with the Boston Gay Men's Chorus.

Matthew Morrison

▶ Paris Combo come to Berklee in May.

JORGE FIDEL ALVAREZ

MAY

Paris Combo
May 3
Berklee Performance Center
136 Mass. Ave., Boston
$28-$37, 617-876-4275
www.worldmusic.org
This Paris-based group blends traditional French chanson with jazz, swing, Gypsy folk and North African music. They also have a little bit of post-punk, surrealist, Spanish and Italian influences. Let's just call their sound "world music," shall we? It's quirky, cool and cabaret sexy. The quintet, with chanteuse Bella du Berry leading the helm vocally, has five albums and a decade of experience.

$16-$46, 617-542-7464
www.bgmc.org
The Boston Gay Men's Chorus celebrate the human spirit at their spring concert. They'll sing the story of a young man in Harlem using Langston Hughes poetry in a world-premiere piece by composer Ricky Ian Gordon.

APRIL

Carolina Chocolate Drops
April 6, House of Blues
15 Lansdowne St., Boston
$25-$40, 617-876-4275
www.worldmusic.org
This old-timey string band from North Carolina won a Grammy in 2011 for their traditional folk sound. The banjo, fiddle, harmonica and kazoo-playing trio will be joined by cellist Leyla McCalla in April. The band, with a style reminiscent of 1920s and '30s black Southern music, hopes to reinvigorate the central role African-Americans had in shaping American pop music.

Dreams and Magic
April 13 and 14, Faneuil Hall
One Faneuil Hall, Boston
$34-$74, 866-811-4111
www.bostonclassical orchestra.org
Many locals associate the Fanueil Hall marketplace with tourists, but inside those historic walls on the second floor, there's an intimate auditorium space where the Boston Classical Orchestra performs. In its final show this season, baritone Philip Lima will join the BCO to sing composer Lee Hoiby's "I Have a Dream" (based on the famous MLK Jr. speech). He'll also do songs by composer Gustav Mahler from "Des Knaben Wunderhorn."

'Amadeus'
April 28 through May 19
The Arsenal Center For The Arts
321 Arsenal St., Watertown
$28-$58, 617-923-8487
www.newrep.org
Though technically a play (and a 1984 movie), "Amadeus" fits comfortably in Metro's "music" category, as the show is all about musical masterpieces of the 18th century. The drama explores the rivalry between Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri. Salieri, a classic — and jealous — Viennese composer, falsely befriends Mozart in hopes of ruining his foe's legacy. Spoiler alert: Mozart does pretty well despite Salieri's intentions.

MAY

Handel's 'Jephtha'
May 3 through 5, Symphony Hall
301 Mass. Ave., Boston
$20-$84, 617-266-3605
www.handelandhaydn.org
Harry Christophers, considered one of the finest Handelians around, will conduct "Jephtha," an oratorio not seen at Boston's Symphony Hall since 1867. Like an opera — with live orchestra, a choir and a storyline — but strictly a concert piece, the oratorio tells a dramatic tale about an Israelite commander and his daughter, who is betrothed to one of her father's soldiers. Perhaps the biggest star in the show is, fittingly, Handel's music.

Matthew Morrison from 'Glee'
May 28 and 29, Symphony Hall
301 Mass. Ave., Boston
$22-$92, 888-266-1200
www.bso.org
Matthew Morrison is an actor, dancer and singer/songwriter with a bunch of Broadway and Off-Broadway credits to his name. He was even nominated for a Tony Award. But let's face it, you only know him as an eager high school glee-club director who inspires all of Sue Sylvester's best taunts. He joins the venerable Keith Lockhart and the Pops at Symphony Hall to perform songs from his upcoming second album. ● NORA DUNNE

spring arts guide

What's going on in the galleries

Visual arts guide

THROUGH APRIL

'Me Love You Long Time'
Through April 7
Mills Gallery
Boston Center for the Arts
Free, 617-426-5000
www.bcaonline.org
This exhibit is a survey of two decades of contemporary art, mostly by artists of South Asian extraction. The list of more than 50 participating artists or collectives is too long to copy here, but the sheer number should give you an idea of just how crazy-extensive it is.

Betsyann Duval and Laurie Alpert
April 3 through 27
Bromfield Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston
Free, 617-451-3605
www.bromfieldgallery.com
Betsyann Duval's contribution to this dual exhibition, "Infinite Progression," began with a series of tiny paintings on sheets of adhesive note paper. Each was meant to be a tiny moment in time. Now she's expanded the concept into larger works that show a progression of moment. Laurie Alpert's half, a set of prints and artist's books entitled "Milori Blue," takes a surprising subject for inspiration: the cracks, ridges, and paint drops on artist's studio floor.

Karen Meninno: 'Sculpture Remix'
April 3 through 28
Kingston Gallery, 450 Harrison Ave., Boston
Free, 617-423-4113
www.kingstongallery.com
The great challenge of cartography is to accurately render a three-dimensional object (the earth) on a two-dimensional surface (the map). With these works, Karen Meninno is trying something similar — but in a much more abstract sense — by digitally manipulating her whimsical, oddly shaped sculptures, transforming them into flat, symmetrical prints. Though the pieces have lost a spatial dimension, they seem to have gained, or perhaps revealed, a previously unknown artistic dimension.

THROUGH MAY

Anders Zorn: 'A European Artist Seduces America'
Through May 13
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston, $5-$15, 617-566-1401
www.gardnermuseum.org
Victorian art collector Isabella Stewart Gardner was best known as a Renaissance enthusiast, but some of her museum's jewels actually come from her own era. Among these are works by Swedish portrait master Anders Zorn, who was wildly popular in those days but tends to be forgotten today. One look at these vibrant works, which include paintings from Gardner's collection as well as selections from museums across the world, will have you wondering why.

Views from Cape Cod and the Massachusetts Islands
April 3 through May 13
Panopticon Gallery
502c Comm. Ave., Boston
Free, 617-267-8929
www.panopticongallery.com
We know what you're thinking: snapshots of the Cape and Islands? Yawn. But these photos by Neal Rantoul and Brian Kaplan are hardly typical postcard fare.

THROUGH JUNE

'Portugal, Jesuits, and Japan: Spiritual Beliefs and Earthly Goods'
Through June 2
McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College
140 Comm. Ave., Chestnut Hill
Free, 617-552-8100
www.bc.edu
This exhibition features rare examples, on seven folding screens, of nanban art — 16th- and 17th-century Japanese works inspired by contact with European missionaries and merchants, whom the locals called "nanban-jin," which translates, rather unflatteringly, to "Southern barbarians." A sense of the strangeness, even silliness, of the European figures, with their comically profuse facial hair and oversized, balloon-like pants, is palpable — it's an enlightening view from the other side of the cultural looking glass.

THROUGH FALL

Barry McGee
April 6 through September
Institute of Contemporary Art
100 Northern Ave., Boston
$10-$15, 617-478-3100
www.icaboston.org
San Francisco-based artist Barry McGee first began showing in the '80s — the era of AIDS panic and punk rock, two major influences on his early work. McGee also draws from graffiti, comics, hobo art and radical politics. He's an artist as much at home in the street as in the gallery, and his work is always striking.

THROUGH AUGUST

Samurai!

April 14 through August 4
Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston
$23-$25, 617-267-9300
www.mfa.org
Legends of the samurai, the knights of medieval Japan whose fierce warrior skills were matched only by their elevated code of honor, are so numerous and popular that it's easy to forget that they, like their European counterparts, actually did exist. Anyone in need of proof should check out this fascinating exhibit of samurai armor and accoutrements from the Ann and Gabriel Barbier-Mueller Collection. And no, you can't try it on. MATTHEW DINARO

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Tickets: $30, $25, or $20. $15 pajama party nights
617-879-2300

A spring in their step

Dance guide

MARCH

Love Songs – Danish Dance Theatre
March 16 and 17
Tsai Performance Center
685 Comm. Ave., Boston
$60-$75, 617-482-6661
www.celebrityseries.org
Denmark's largest modern dance company visits just three cities on their U.S. tour this spring, and Boston made the cut. "Love Songs" mixes dance performance with jazz songs by the likes of Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong and Billie Holiday.

'The Sleeping Beauty'
March 22 through April 7
Boston Opera House
539 Washington St., Boston
$29-$137, 617-695-6955
www.bostonballet.org
It's been an eventful season at the Boston Ballet. In November the company premiered a totally reimaged production of "The Nutcracker" with new sets and costumes that a Metro reviewer called "visually and technically breathtaking." Balletgoers can look forward to equally enthralling design, choreography and execution at "The Sleeping Beauty." The well-known story about a slumbering princess earned rave reviews when it was last produced in 2009.

APRIL

Spellbound Dance Company
April 5 and 6
Citi Shubert Theatre
265 Tremont St., Boston
$60-$75, 617-482-6661
www.celebrityseries.org
Boston hosts another European dance company, this time a leading Italian ensemble visiting during its first U.S. tour. The program will include "Lost for Words," an abstract piece about the role of language in human relations.

'In the Mind's Eye'
April 5 through 21
The Sanctuary Theatre
400 Harvard St., Boston
$40, $617-354-7467
www.ballettheatre.org
Two minimalistic composers inspire the Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre's production "In the Mind's Eye." "Streams" features music by Terry Riley, and John Adams provides the melody for "Fearless Symmetries." Both scores inspire the dancers, but they're also meant to evoke individual audience interpretations.

Kate Weare Company
April 19 and 20
Institute of Contemporary Art
100 Northern Ave., Boston
$40, 617-876-4275
www.worldmusic.org
Come to this Kate Weare Company show early for a pre-performance talk in the ICA lobby, or stay later for a Q&A afterward with these New York-based contemporary dancers.

'Spring Works'
April 26 and 27
The Boston Conservatory Theater
31 Hemenway St., Boston
Free, 617-912-9260
www.bostonconservatory.edu
They're not professionals yet, but the music, dance and theater students at the conservatory are on their way to the big leagues. And tickets to their shows won't break the bank. The school's annual "Spring Works" performance features choreography by Dance Division students. Note: The show is free, but make reservations!

DONNY ZALTZBERG

MAY

Prometheus Dance
May 17 and 18
The Boston Conservatory Theater, 31 Hemenway St., Boston, $35, 617-876-4275
www.worldmusic.org
Massachusetts-based modern dance company Prometheus Dance celebrates its 25th anniversary with a world premiere, "Heart of the Matter." The piece, the company's fifth evening-length work, examines individuality in the face of societal pressure. Artistic directors Diane Arvanites and Tommy Neblette lead the ensemble. The company will host a post-performance Q&A on May 17.

MAY

'Tappin' Thru Life'
May 14 through 19
Cutler Majestic Theatre
219 Tremont St., Boston
$25-$89, 617-824-8400
www.artsemerson.org
Dancer, actor and jazz singer Maurice Hines taps audiences through a 40-plus-year career in show business, which includes a tribute to his former partner and younger brother Gregory.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
May 16 through 19
Citi Wang Theatre
270 Tremont St., Boston
$30-$90, 617-482-6661
www.celebrityseries.org
The Ailey company performs "Another Night" for the first time in Boston this spring. The work has deep roots: Choreographer Kyle Abraham was inspired by drummer Art Blakely, who was inspired by musician Dizzy Gillespie.

NORA DUNNE

PROOF BY DAVID AUBURN
DIRECTED BY CHRISTIAN PARKER
MARCH 21 - APRIL 14

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spring arts guide

Funny business

Comedy guide

NBC UNIVERSAL/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Rachel "Debbie Downer" Dratch will lift your spirits at the Women in Comedy Festival next week.

MARCH

Women in Comedy Festival

March 21 through 24
Various locations
www.womenincomedyfestival.com
Despite the success of innumerable female comedians, you still hear now and then that women aren't as funny as men. There are more than 200 comics at this festival who would beg to differ. This year's headliners include Rachel Dratch, Erin Foley and Maria Bamford. A few non-woman comics like Horatio Sanz also join in on the fun.

APRIL

David Sedaris
April 7, Symphony Hall
301 Mass. Ave., Boston
$40-$60, 617-482-6661
www.celebrityseries.org
David Sedaris' books are funny enough to read, but as fans of "This American Life" well know, hearing him read his own stories out loud adds to the hilarity.

Geek Week Comedy Fest
April 16 through 21
ImprovBoston
40 Prospect St., Cambridge
Prices TBA, 617-576-1253
www.improvboston.com
One of the nerd-side advantages in the interminable nerd vs. jock wars is a superior sense of humor. Sure, a lot of that humor is only understood by other geeks, but they've long since ceased trying to impress you "normals" anyway. All manner of geek comedy will be on display at this festival, where it will be safe to make ingeniously clever references to Magic cards, comic books and "Star Wars" obscurities without blank stares.

MAY

Sommore
May 17, The Wilbur Theatre
246 Tremont St., Boston
$33, 800-745-3000
www.ticketmaster.com
One-named performers tend to have strong personalities — think of Sting, Madonna or Prince — and Sommore is no exception. She deserves a medal for her foul-mouthed frankness.

ONGOING

'The Last Twinkie'
Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston
$52, 617-263-NUTS
www.improvasylum.com
The Asylum's phone number ends in the word "nuts"! And it is seriously crazy how these actors blend topical and timeless sketches with off-the-top-of-their head improv comedy.

'Shear Madness'
Charles Playhouse
74 Warrenton St., Boston
$52, 617-426-5225
www.shearmadness.com
It seems like "Shear Madness" has been in Boston since time immemorial. Legend has it that Ben Franklin was its original star — back when it was known as "The Lunatick Chirurgeon." OK, we just made that up. No, we're not pretending to be as good as the improvisers at Improv Asylum or Improv Boston or the ones in this production, in which the audience solves the crime — in between fits of laughter, that is. It's different every time, depending on the crowd, so even if you've seen it before, you sort of haven't. MATTHEW DINARO

ROCKPORT MUSIC

GUITARS
AT THE SHALIN LIU PERFORMANCE CENTER

MAR 22: Larry Coryell, *guitar*
Jazz-rock pioneer

APR 6: David Maxwell, *blues*
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▶ Erica Cornejo and Yury Yanowsky are a great match in the "Symphony of Psalms" portion of Boston Ballet's latest.

ROSALIE O'CONNOR

Boston Ballet snaps, crackles and pops

◗ With another set of Jiri Kylián pieces, audiences will leap from their seats ◗ Some of it's even a little ugly

Boston Ballet can't get enough of Jiri Kylián. And neither can Boston audiences.

For three continuous seasons, Boston Ballet has put on jaw-dropping performances of the Czech-Nederlands contemporary choreographer. This year's pieces by the artistic director of Nederlands Dans Theatre are all Boston premieres.

"Wings of Wax" opens the show with a revolving spotlight highlighting an inverted tree. Four women dressed in black unitards and four men dance underneath the chandelier of that inverted tree. The partnering choreography in the piece is exquisite, innovative and seamless between the dancers.

If you go

Boston Ballet presents 'All Kylián'
Through Sunday
The Opera House
539 Washington St., Boston
$39-$142, 617-695-6950
www.bostonballet.org

Avant-garde ballet "Tar and Feathers" features two unusual elements: a Steinway piano on stilts and bubble wrap. Tomoko Mukaiyama (the original, and only accompanist) is perched 10 feet above as one dancer seems to go insane, taking on the personification of a mad dog. This is by no means is an attractive ballet, but it is unforgettable, as the dancers later appear in bubble wrap skirts and wigs. Plus, who doesn't love the sound of popping bubble wrap amidst the quietness?

And finally, one of Kylián's best known works, "Symphony of Psalms," hits close to home with a Stravinsky score once commissioned for the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Even though the women wear slightly boring neutral tea-length dresses, the live chorus along with choreography has the fervor of a religious celebration.

Katrina T. Lallier
katrina.lallier@metro.us

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Discuss the future 5-year Capital Investment Plan at a public forum

Each year, the MBTA develops a 5-year Capital Investment Program (CIP), which invests in infrastructure and new vehicles to maintain and modernize the system. We welcome your feedback on our FY14 – FY18 Draft CIP at the following public hearing:

MBTA Capital Investment Program Public Hearing
Tuesday, March 19, 2013
– Boston
State Transportation Building, 2nd Floor, Conference Rooms 2 and 3
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116
5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Directions: Take the Green or Silver Line to Boylston Station, the Orange Line to New England Medical Center, or Bus 43 or 55.

MBTA public comment period started on March 7, 2013 and ends on March 30, 2013. The FY14 – FY18 Draft CIP is available at www.mbta.com. If you are unable to attend the public hearing, but would like to comment, send us an email at cipinfo@mbta.com or write to us at: MBTA Budget Office, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116.

American Sign Language interpreters and assistive listening devices will be on-site. All facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you need an accommodation in order to fully participate in the hearing, please email us prior to the scheduled date.

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SXSW

NOLAN GAWRON
TWITTER: @METROUSMUSIC

Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds were slated to perform at Stubbs on Wednesday night while the sun was still up in the Austin, Texas, sky — a strange and rare choice for his dark tunes. Cave, as I expected, stalled until the darkness fell, and with the smell of barbecue in the air, opened with a few tracks from his latest album, "Push the Sky Away." Almost possessed, he brought life to the quiet songs and followed them up by an epic run through some of his best work. While much of the band is new, the Bad Seeds complemented Cave's commanding stage presence with tense reserve — all except violinist Warren Ellis, who has in time become Cave's maniacal right-hand man.

I then headed to Hype Hotel for what was a great lineup, but ended up serving as a stark contrast to the veteran Cave's class and showmanship. The **Orwells** kicked things off and after noticing the X's on their hands I learned that they are teenagers. They don't look it, and they don't sound like it. Sure, the lead singer has a bit of Jim Morrison snotty angst, but the band played well … until they were told it was their last song. Thinking their set was being cut short, the guitarist told the sound guy that he had been lied to, provoking the lead singer to swing his microphone around and smash it into the cymbals before sending it into the crowd. After a physical altercation with the soundman, they left the stage for good. It was a rock 'n' roll moment that you don't see very often anymore … for better or worse.

NOLAN GAWRON/METRO

▶ Phosphorescent shone at SXSW, but they could still use a little lesson on manners.

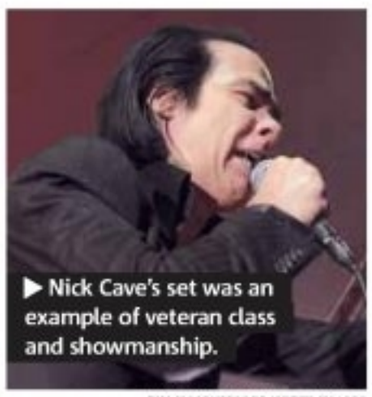
Whether or not it was the Orwells' fault, the sound only went southward: Cords were busted and sets were delayed. The anticipated **Phosphorescent** shone despite the ordeal. Seven members deep and with two keyboardists, their sound was fleshed out roots rock with an expressive backwoods voice. Making it through most of the set without complaints, they also threw their mic after the last song. Are rockers borrowing from rappers now?

Things only got worse as **Foxygen**, who sound sexy and polished on record and have a big buzz from many major press outlets, ended up sounding like an out of tune and out of work show-tune band.

The sound and showmanship only returned as **Jim James** closed out the night with a short set.

But maybe there's hope for these young bands. Once upon a time there was young punk named Nick Cave who might have behaved the same way.

*—Follow **Nolan Gawron** on Twitter: @metrousmusic. Check www.metro.us for his updates on the best of SXSW.*



▶ Nick Cave's set was an example of veteran class and showmanship.

TIM MOSENFELDER/GETTY IMAGES

Drunk history at SXSW

Each day, the Convention Center hosts panel discussions as part of SXSW. I ducked into an program intriguingly titled "Drunk Comedy at SXSW." The Internet sensation that became popular on Funny or Die is coming to Comedy Central, and Kyle Kinane and Derek Waters were there to discuss their plans. Playing the part with tallboys in cozies, they talked about the concept, confessing that it was only supposed to be one video short until Jack Black asked if he could be Ben Franklin. The rest is history … drunk history.

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EUROSPACE

▶ Rin Takanashi plays a young, cell phone-addicted prostitute in Abbas Kiarostami's "Like Someone in Love," out today.

The funniest film from an unfunny filmmaker

Calling "Like Someone in Love" the funniest film by Iranian legend Abbas Kiarostami doesn't exactly promise a fun night out. It would be like saying, for instance, that something is the funniest film by Adam Sandler. Kiarostami once made "Taste of Cherry," concerning a man on the prowl for someone to bury him after he's committed suicide. Then again, humor is detectable in even his darkest films; even "Cherry" can be read as lightly farcical. (A very, very dark farce, mind you.) In "Love," his sense of humor is simply more noticeable than usual.

Granted, these aren't gut-busting yuks. The funniest joke plays like a covert parody of the ultra-ascetic "master shot" filmmaking style, of which Kiarostami is a prime practitioner. In it, a character sits at a red light — in one long, unbroken shot, natch — and it goes on so long he actually falls asleep. Even the plot is vaguely silly: A young prostitute (Rin Takanashi) takes up with an elderly professor (Tadashi Okuno). Her fiance (Ryo Kase) intercepts him and, oblivious, winds up bonding with him.

This is Kiarostami's second trip around the globe. (Meanwhile, his fellow countryman and sometime collaborator Jafar Panahi wallows under house arrest.) Where his first, "Certified Copy," boasted an inexplicable narrative — and wooed viewers with Tuscany and Juliette Binoche — the story in this, his trip to Japan, is almost comically simple, but its intentions prove far more elusive.

The easiest way in is to read it as a mordant rumination on miscommunication. Its characters are prevented from knowing each other through age, temperament and, in some cases, technology. Takanashi is a cell-phone addict whose head is permanently perched downwards toward a tiny screen in her palm, her most meaningful interactions carried on via texts. Meanwhile, Kiarostami adds to the dehumanization with shots that position major characters in bizarre locations within frames. In the opening, the viewer has to search the image for the speaker, and one might as well take that as a metaphor for the film: Finding its "meaning" is difficult but not impossible.

Matt Prigge
letters@metro.us

If you go

'Like Someone in Love'
Director: Abbas Kiarostami
Stars: Rin Takanashi, Tadashi Okuno
Rating: NR
Grade: ●●●●○

Reviews

'The Call'

Grade: ●●●○○
Modest, if not basement-level, expectations can do one a world of good, and expectations don't get more modest than a mid-level thriller starring Halle Berry as a 911 operater fielding a call from an abductee (Abigail Breslin, now a teen). And like the extremely similar "Cellular" — whose overqualified cast included William H. Macy and Oscar winner Kim Basinger — it's a surprisingly almost rigorous glorified B-picture that repeatedly finds ways to extend an anemic premise to an acceptably short length. ● **MATT PRIGGE**

'Upside Down'

Grade: ●●○○○
The pricey English-language European production "Upside Down" boasts a ridiculous premise, the kind that probably sounded simple in theory but requires tedious explication when put in practice. Jim Sturgess plays a moony-eyed dreamer who lives on a planet with "double gravity," with one society literally living on top of the other, facing each other like polar opposites. There are also "pink bees." His Adam is in love not with Eve but Eden (Kirsten Dunst), a pretty girl from the world above him. Like all those on his half, he's poor, and she, like hers, is disgustingly rich. As youths, they would meet at adjacent mountain peaks to make out and eat jam. She conveniently loses her memory, but Adam never gives up the flame and hatches a plan to reunite, using Mr. Heavyfoot boots and several tons of pluck. There are a number of handsome images, one of them in an all-white office with endless rows of cubicles on both top and bottom. It's a vision of mega-bureaucracy to rival the ones in "The Apartment," "Brazil" and Orson Welles' "The Trial." Sure enough, director Juan Solanas comes back to it again and again, and again and again and again, perhaps because the rest of his film has nothing close to its power and, more important, wit. Our lovers never even click: Dunst looks (justifiably) bored, while Sturgess does enough overemoting for at least three star-crossed lovers. ● **METRO/MP**

MILLENNIUM ENTERTAINMENT

▶ Jim Sturgess (bottom) and Kirsten Dunst (top) star in "Upside Down,"in theaters today.

▶ Halle Berry stars in "The Call," out now.

CBEC CAYNE

The inoffensive 'Burt Wonderstone'

Steve Carell vehicle relies heavily on scene-stealing from the big supporting cast Serves as a comeback of sorts for the recently underutilized Jim Carrey

WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Steve Buscemi, Steve Carell and Olivia Wilde star in "The Incredible Burt Wonderstone," in theaters now.

"The Incredible Burt Wonderstone" is an inoffensive Steve Carell vehicle, with breaks for supporting cast scene-stealing. As the title Las Vegas magician/institution, Carell's a selfish egomaniac, going through the motions with much nicer assistant/lifelong friend Anton Marvelton (Steve Buscemi). Their longstanding dominance is threatened by a new kind of anti-magician, Steve Gray (Jim Carrey), who seems based on Criss Angel and David Blaine. His stunts, such as the "Brain Rapist," have less to with sleight of hand than sadomasochism.

Burt and Anton fail at one-upping Blaine's stunt of hanging in a glass cube for 35 hours. They aim for a week but last 20 minutes suspended at 100 feet. This culminates in a literal and figurative fall from bankability. Anton splits while Burt rediscovers his love of magic at a nursing home under the tutelage of childhood idol Rance Halloway (Alan Arkin). Anton and Burt eventually reunite, but can they retake their rightful place from their rival?

The casting is almost backward. Since his 2005 breakout, "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," Carell has been (with shockingly few exceptions) a consistently profitable draw in adult and family comedies. Carrey isn't nearly as dominant as he was in his decade-long prime, and the 51-year-old devoted considerable weight-loss to achieving a sufficiently lean physique. It's odd, then, that he's a comeback kid playing the new dominant threat.

The standard three-act redemption arc has Burt fall from grandeur to washed-up pathos, then winding up back at the top, having learned a valuable lesson. It's shoddy but amiable enough to envision having a comfortable cable afterlife, with just enough grace notes from these comic actors performing tried and true routines to prevent torpor setting in.

There's satire on the fringes. The opening act gags find Burt objectifying and harassing assistant Jane (Olivia Wilde). He apologizes for casual misogyny, and the film then moves onto Gray abusing himself. In the final act, Burt and Anton's career-restoring trick (which shouldn't be spoiled) inflicts a pain on the audience, which is what Blaine's fans deserve for egging on physical self-destruction as spectacle.

If you go

'The Incredible Burt Wonderstone'
Director: Don Scardino
Stars: Steve Carell, Jim Carrey
Rating: PG-13
Grade: ●●●○○

Vadim Rizov
letters@metro.us

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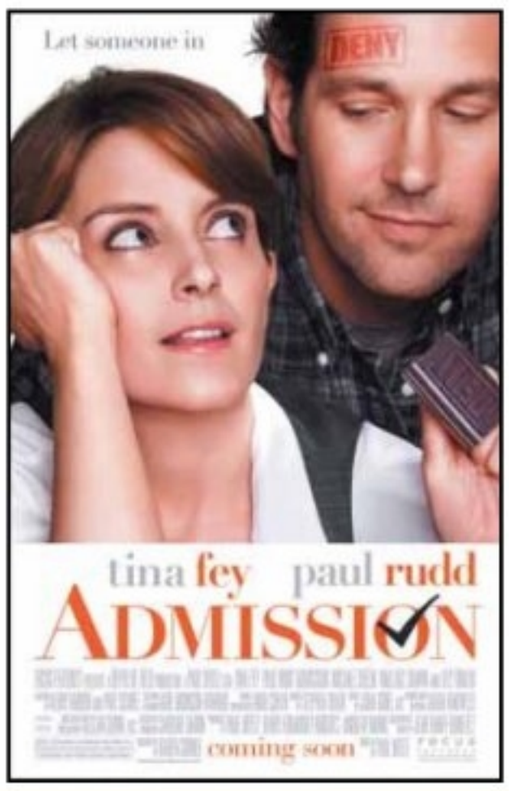

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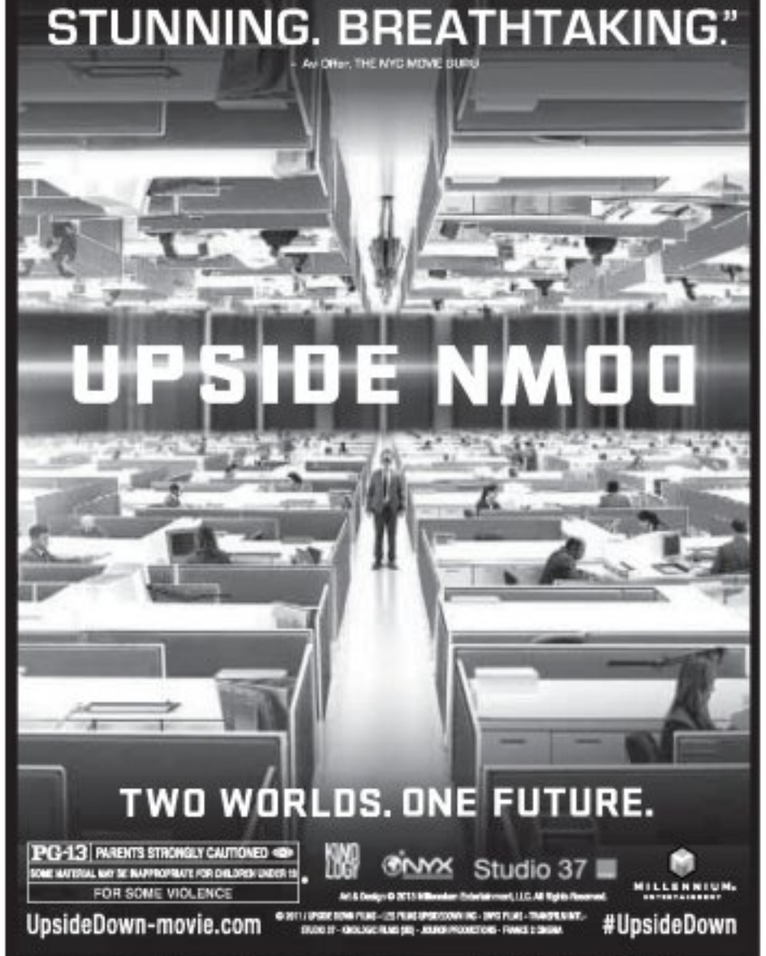

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THE INCREDIBLE BURT WONDERSTONE (PG-13) 10:00, 11:00, 12:20, 1:40, 3:00, 4:20, 5:40, 7:00, 8:20, 9:40, 10:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
JACK THE GIANT SLAYER (PG-13) 11:05, 1:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
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OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL IN 3D (PG) 10:00, 11:10, 1:05, 2:30, 4:30, 5:50, 7:50, 9:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30. IMAX
THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (R) **Sat** 12:01. Digital Presentation
SIDE EFFECTS (R) 11:30, 2:05, 4:45, 7:20, 9:45. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) 10:15, 1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 8:25, 9:50. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
SNITCH (PG-13) 4:15, 9:45. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
STOKER (R) 10:20, 12:45, 3:05, 5:35, 8:00, 10:25.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
ZERO DARK THIRTY (R) 10:05, 5:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

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THE GATEKEEPERS (SHOMEREI HA'SAF) (PG-13) **Fri** 2:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:20; **Sat** and **Sun** 11:40-2:30-4:45-7:15-9:20.
A GLIMPSE INSIDE THE MIND OF CHARLES SWAN III (R) **Fri** 2:10, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45; **Sat** 12:00-2:10-5:00-7:30-9:45.; **Sun** 12:00-5:00-7:30-9:45.
JOHN DIES AT THE END (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:00
KIDS' SHOWS: THE TANGLEWOOD MARIONETTES: CINDERELLA **Sat** 10:30
LORE (NR) **Fri** 11:00, 2:00, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30; **Sat** 12:00-2:00-4:45-7:00-9:30.; **Sun** 2:00-4:45-7:00-9:30.
REPO MAN (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:00
THE ROOM (R) **Fri** 12:00
STOKER (R) **Fri** 2:20, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40; **Sat** and **Sun** 12:20-2:40-5:00-7:20-9:40.
TALK CINEMA (NR) **Sun** 10:00

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21 AND OVER (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 5:50, 7:45, 10:05, 12:15. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 5:50-7:45-10:05. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
THE CALL (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:50, 1:50, 4:45, 7:30, 9:50, 12:15. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:50-1:50-4:45-7:30-9:50. Digital Presentation
DEAD MAN DOWN (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:20, 1:55, 4:35, 8:30, 11:20. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:20-1:55-4:35-8:30. Digital Presentation
ESCAPE FROM PLANET EARTH (PG) 10:15, 12:30. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
IDENTITY THIEF (R) 10:40, 1:30, 4:05, 6:45, 9:20. Digital Presentation
THE INCREDIBLE BURT WONDERSTONE (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 7:20, 8:10, 9:45, 10:40, 11:55. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:30-1:00-3:30-6:00-7:20-8:05-9:45-10:30. Digital Presentation
JACK THE GIANT SLAYER (PG-13) 1:20, 7:10. Digital Presentation
JACK THE GIANT SLAYER 3D (PG-13) 10:45, 4:40, 9:55. RealD 3D
OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL (PG) **Fri** 10:15, 1:15, 2:45, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 1:15-2:45-4:15-7:15-10:15. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:15-1:15-2:45-4:15-7:15-10:15. Digital Presentation
OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL IN 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:15, 12:15, 1:45, 2:15, 3:15, 5:15, 6:15, 8:15, 9:15, 11:15. RealD 3D; **Sun** 11:15-12:15-1:45-2:15-3:15-5:15-6:15-8:15-9:15. RealD 3D
SNITCH (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:00, 4:30, 12:10. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:00-4:30. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation

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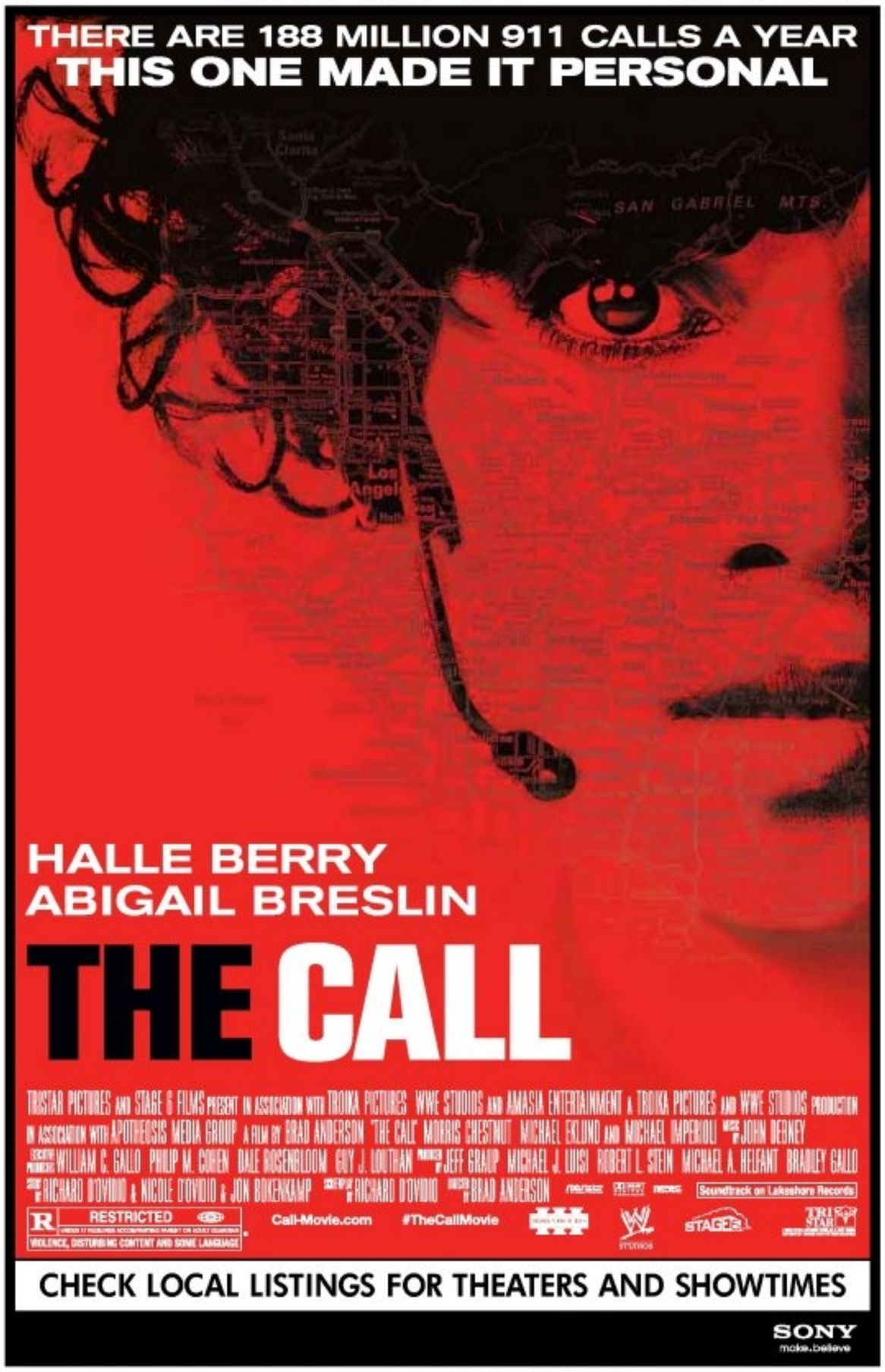
THE CALL (R) **Fri** 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:10, 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sat** 10:00-12:30-3:00-5:30-8:10-10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:00-12:30-3:00-5:30-8:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
ESCAPE FROM PLANET EARTH (PG) **Fri** 12:40. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation; **Sat** 10:00. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 9:50-12:40. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
IDENTITY THIEF (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:00-2:00-4:45-7:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE INCREDIBLE BURT WONDERSTONE (PG-13) **Fri** 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sat** 9:30-12:00-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 9:30-12:00-2:30-5:10-7:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
JACK THE GIANT SLAYER (PG-13) 12:50, 6:30. Digital Presentation
JACK THE GIANT SLAYER 3D (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 3:30, 9:30. RealD 3D; **Sun** 10:10-3:30. RealD 3D
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: FRANCESCA DA RIMINI (NR) **Sat** 12:00



Loews Liberty Tree Mall 20
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21 AND OVER (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:30, 2:15, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15, 12:00. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:30-2:15-5:10-7:45-10:15. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
ADVENTURES OF SERIAL BUDDIES (PG-13) 10:30, 3:10, 9:15.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
ARGO (R) 11:30, 2:45, 4:10, 6:15, 9:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE CALL (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:30, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00, 3:30, 4:30, 6:00, 7:00, 8:30, 9:30, 11:00, 12:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:30-11:30-1:00-2:00-3:30-4:30-6:00-7:00-8:30-9:30-10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
ESCAPE FROM PLANET EARTH (PG) 1:45, 9:30. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
ESCAPE FROM PLANET EARTH 3D (PG) 11:15, 7:00. CC-Closed Captions;RealD 3D
IDENTITY THIEF (R) 10:45, 1:45, 4:20, 7:15, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
JACK THE GIANT SLAYER 3D (PG-13) 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
MINDLESS BEHAVIOR: ALL AROUND THE WORLD (G) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:00, 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:00-1:15-3:45-6:15-8:45.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL (PG) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Fri** and **Sat** 11:00-2:15-5:30-8:45-11:45. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:00-2:15-5:30-8:45. Digital Presentation
OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL IN 3D (PG) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; 11:45-3:00-6:00-9:00. RealD 3D
OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) **Fri** 10:15, 1:30, 4:30, 7:45, 11:00. IMAX; **Sat** 1:30-4:30-7:45-11:00. IMAX; **Sun** 10:15-1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30. IMAX
QUARTET (PG-13) 10:30, 1:10, 3:45, 5:30, 6:30, 10:40.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
SAFE HAVEN (PG-13) 10:40, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 9:45. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
SIDE EFFECTS (R) 11:00, 1:45, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) 11:55, 3:15, 4:25, 6:30, 9:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
SNITCH (PG-13) 10:30, 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 10:45. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation

Framingham 16
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22 Flutie Pass
21 AND OVER (R) **Fri** 4:00, 10:30. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation; **Sat** 10:30. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 4:00-10:30. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
ARGO (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:20, 2:00, 4:50, 8:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:20-2:00-4:50-7:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE CALL (R) 11:40, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:40. Digital Presentation
DEAD MAN DOWN (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:45, 2:35, 5:15, 8:10, 11:00. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:30-2:20-5:00-7:50-10:30. Digital Presentation
EMPEROR (PG-13) 10:35, 1:10, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
ESCAPE FROM PLANET EARTH (PG) 11:20, 4:25. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
ESCAPE FROM PLANET EARTH 3D (PG) 1:50. CC-Closed Captions;RealD 3D
A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
IDENTITY THIEF (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:10, 1:50, 4:40, 7:45, 10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:10-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE INCREDIBLE BURT WONDERSTONE (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:50, 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 9:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:50-1:30-4:15-7:15-10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
JACK THE GIANT SLAYER (PG-13) 1:20, 7:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
JACK THE GIANT SLAYER 3D (PG-13) 10:40, 4:20, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
LINCOLN (PG-13) 11:50, 6:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: FRANCESCA DA RIMINI (NR) **Sat** 12:00
OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, 4:10, 6:00, 7:30, 9:15, 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:30-1:00-2:30-4:10-6:00-7:30-9:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL IN 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:45, 12:15, 1:45, 3:30, 5:00, 6:45, 8:15, 10:00, 11:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; **Sun** 10:45-12:15-1:45-3:30-5:00-6:45-8:15-9:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
SAFE HAVEN (PG-13) 7:00, 9:45. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
SIDE EFFECTS (R) 3:20, 9:50. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:30-10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
ZERO DARK THIRTY (R) **Fri** 12:30, 6:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sat** 6:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 12:30-6:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

SOMERVILLE THEATRE

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55 Davis Square
ARGO (R) **Fri** 4:30; **Sat** and **Sun** 1:45-4:30.
THE INCREDIBLE BURT WONDERSTONE (PG-13) **Fri** 5:00, 7:30, 9:45; **Sat** 2:00-5:00-7:30-9:45.; **Sun** 2:00-5:00-7:30.
OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 4:15, 9:45; **Sun** 4:15.
OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL IN 3D (PG) **Fri** 7:00; **Sat** and **Sun** 1:30-7:00.
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) **Fri** 4:40, 7:20, 9:50; **Sat** 1:40-4:40-7:20-9:50.; **Sun** 1:40-4:40-7:20.
ZERO DARK THIRTY (R) 7:10

CAPITOL THEATRE

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AMOUR (PG-13) **Fri** 4:15, 7:00, 9:40; **Sat** 1:15-4:15-7:00-9:40.; **Sun** 1:15-4:15-7:00.
BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 7:40, 9:45; **Sun** 7:40.
DJANGO UNCHAINED (R) **Fri** 7:20; **Sat** and **Sun** 1:40-7:20.
IDENTITY THIEF (R) **Fri** 4:10, 7:10, 9:50; **Sat** 1:45-4:10-7:10-9:50.; **Sun** 1:45-4:10-7:10.
JACK THE GIANT SLAYER (PG-13) **Sat** and **Sun** 1:30
JACK THE GIANT SLAYER 3D (PG-13) 4:30
LINCOLN (PG-13) **Fri** 4:20, 7:30; **Sat** and **Sun** 1:20-4:20-7:30.
SIDE EFFECTS (R) 5:00

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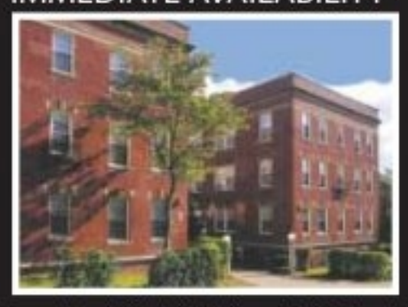

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That old Steve Carell magic

The star of 'The Incredible Burt Wonderstone' on his favorite comedies (including the work of Stanley Kubrick) and the darker version of his new movie

With titles like "The 40 Year Old Virgin" and "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy" under his belt, Steve Carell certainly knows his way around a joke. We wanted to get the star of "The Incredible Burt Wonderstone" to suggest the best comedies of all time and ask him what makes them great. We plopped Time Out London's list of the 100 Best Comedy Movies in front of him. Incidentally, just two of Carell's films made the list — "Anchorman" and "Little Miss Sunshine" — but he let it slide.

OK, here's the list.

No. 1, "This is Spinal Tap." Well, that's obviously a classic. It broke the mold, and it has been copied so often. Like any great movie or book or play, there's one of these, and you can't replicate it. And it holds up, too. "Some Like it Hot"? Yeah, these are all great. "Groundhog Day"? Man, that's one of my favorite holiday movies. Wow, "Anchorman" is No. 6! Nice. Monty Python — any Monty Python is great. "Annie Hall," "Life of Brian," "Airplane!" I think "Anchorman" in a lot of ways is like "Airplane!" in that it's just unrelenting silliness.

Is there one on the list that sticks out for you?

"Dr. Strangelove." No. 14? I'd put that on top of my list. I think that movie is terrifying and funny in equal parts, and I think that is special. That's an almost impossible feat to accomplish, to create something that elicits such completely diverse responses. And I love Peter Sellers' performances in that movie.

Do you remember when you first saw it?

I think I saw it in a film class in college. I didn't really know much about it, but it was a movie that changed my perception of comedy in a lot of ways. And [the Peter Sellers movie] "Being There," as well. I don't know where "Being There" is on this list.

I don't think it's on the list.

It's not? [He flips through.] And on the other side, getting away from somebody like [Stanley] Kubrick, you have Mel Brooks, with "Blazing Saddles" or "Young Frankenstein." "Young Frankenstein" is one of my all-time favorite movies as well. And again, just unrelenting silliness and commitment. I don't know. It's hard to deconstruct it because you don't necessarily know why something

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BEN GLASS

▶ Steve Carell is decked out in sequins with a shock of blond hair in his upcoming movie "The Incredible Burt Wonderstone," out Friday.

makes you laugh, it just does. I think the more you deconstruct why it makes you laugh, the less funny it is. For me, I just love letting stuff wash over me and don't analyze it too much.

There's also the repeat viewing factor, films you can watch again and again. For instance, "Galaxy Quest" is on here.

"Galaxy Quest"! I love that movie, too. I just got to work with Sam Rockwell, and the first thing I said to him was, "I loved you in 'Galaxy Quest.'" He's a great actor, he's done all sorts of fantastic work, but his character in "Galaxy Quest" ... He gets dematerialized and then rematerialized, and he's so freaked out he just stands there screaming?

I'm always surprised more people don't love that movie.

These are all great — and in different ways, you know? "Planes, Trains & Automobiles" — really wonderful performances and connection between John Candy and Steve Martin. ... There's sort of a magic to when it works, and I think for some reason a movie like "Anchorman" worked on that level. I don't think we knew it at the time. We knew it was funny. I mean, it was funny to us doing it. And I think when it opened nine years ago or something, people liked it, but over time I think people have liked it more and more.

Ned Ehrbar
METRO WORLD NEWS

Getting the right tone for 'Wonderstone'

In "The Incredible Burt Wonderstone," a lot of the gags and jokes stray into pretty macabre territory, like when Jim Carrey's shock-illusionist character Steve Gray uses a power drill for a very dangerous "trick." Was there a darker version of this movie that the filmmakers had to work hard not to not make? "In one of the scripted versions, it was not a drill bit but a gun, and I asked for that to be changed," says Carell, who also produced the film. "I thought that would be tempting fate, frankly. I thought if someone even as a joke did something with a gun and hurt themselves or someone else, I wouldn't want to have that on the movie as something that inspired it. So we changed it into something that is much sillier, frankly."

The trick, Carell says, was to rely on reactions from test audiences to find the right balance of tone — though those crowds didn't get the final say by any means. "A lot of the stuff with Steve Gray is pretty raw, and there were even more raw versions of it, but you test it and you see how far you can go with people," he says. "And when you start losing people because it is too far, that's when you have to make that judgment call. It's like tonally where do you want to fall? And you know, I don't go all by audience testing. Sometimes you leave it in just because you think it's funny anyway and that the majority of people are going to be able to digest it, but sometimes you have to listen and be responsible about it."

Burt Wonderstone vs. Ron Burgundy

Toward the beginning of "The Incredible Burt Wonderstone," when successful Las Vegas magician Wonderstone (Steve Carell) is at the height of his fame and power, viewers might get some glimpses of Ron Burgundy, Will Ferrell's blowhard lead from "Anchorman."

Burgundy

Carell acknowledges some similarities, but he insists it wasn't intentional. "I think of them as Casanovas — there definitely is a parallel there. But I think that's where the similarities stop," he says. "Ron isn't mean to people. He's not a bad person, and at the point where we find the adult Burt Wonderstone, he's a pretty bad guy. He's a jerk, he's an egomaniac who really doesn't care anymore and is completely burned out with his life and himself."

Cocktails of the week

Alcoholic:

Irish Trash Can
INGREDIENTS
½ oz. gin
½ oz. light rum
½ oz. vodka
½ oz. peach schnapps
½ oz. Blue Curacao liqueur
½ oz. triple sec
1 can Red Bull

INSTRUCTIONS
Fill a glass with ice, stir in liquors. Add a can of Red Bull. When it combines with the other colors, the drink will turn green.

On the wagon:

Mint Green Shake
INGREDIENTS
3 cups vanilla ice cream
1 ¾ cups milk
½ teaspoon peppermint extract
Green food coloring
Whipped cream to top (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS
Blend ice cream, milk, extract and food coloring in a blender until smooth. Pour into glass and top with whipped cream.

Mint Green Shake

CASSIE JOHNSTON/WWW.BACKTOHEBROOTS.COM

KERRY BRETT

▶ The Dropkick Murphys have come home for the holidays.

'SIGNED AND SEALED' DELIVERANCE

The Dropkick Murphys' Ken Casey discusses the band's latest album While he promises 'a good, old-fashioned punk-rock record,' there's still room for a ballad

How do you follow an intricate concept album? If you're the Dropkick Murphys you go back to basics. And the result, with the January-released "Signed and Sealed in Blood," is a rip-roaring Boston Celtic punk classic.

"The previous record being a concept album was very much mental gymnastics," says Dropkicks co-founder Ken Casey. "It was a great songwriting exercise. But this time we felt like kids in a candy store ready to write a good, old-fashioned punk rock record. It never would have happened or sounded like this if the other one hadn't been like it was — or come as quick."

Right from the foot-stomping opener "The Boys Are Back," the seven-man band wear their pent-up punk-rock energy on their tattooed sleeves.

"The chains were off and there was no constraints. In that description it makes it sound like 'Going Out in Style' wasn't fun and it certainly was fun. It's difficult writing a song, but when you're trying to tie all the songs into a larger story, it steers you into directions you might not want to go in," adds Casey. "This one is a simpler record."

Simpler doesn't mean dumb, though. The folky "Rose Tattoo" finds the Dropkicks collaborating with Mumford and Sons banjo player Winston Marshall, where the pace gears down.

Casey says that even though ballads are not in their nature, they do aim for balance.

"Even though this album doesn't have a true ballad, we slow it down," he says, "but without pulling the rug from under the record."

Linda Laban
linda.laban@metro.us

If you go

The Dropkicks play a hat trick of homecoming shows this weekend

With The Mahones, Barroom Heroes and Bryan McPherson
Friday, 7:30 p.m.
TD Garden
100 Legends Way, Boston
$38-$43, 800-745-3000
www.ticketmaster.com

With Colin Of Arabia, Penalty Kill
Saturday, 8 p.m.
Brighton Music Hall
158 Brighton Ave., Allston
TBA, 18+, 617-254-9743
www.brighton musichall.com

With The Mahones, Barroom Heroes and Bryan McPherson
Sunday, 7 p.m.
House of Blues
15 Lansdowne St., Boston
$33-$60, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

'Barroom Hero' returns to setlist

Among the hundreds of songs the Dropkick Murphys have under their belt, "Barroom Hero" is a clear favorite with their fans.

"We'd taken it out of the set," Casey says. "Then people stared saying, 'What the hell are you doing not playing that song?' So, we started putting it back in.

"It was the first song we ever wrote, even before we started the band. It's one of those songs that's always been a staple. You play a song every time for 17 years, they're either going to love it or hate it."

Quoted

"This time we felt like kids in a candy store ready to write a good old-fashioned punk rock record."
KEN CASEY

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The grub o' the Irish

You're going to need to eat something on St. Paddy's if you want to keep the party going all day and all night

COURTESY OF GRAFTON STREET

▶ It's always St. Patrick's Day at Grafton Street.

This year St. Patrick's Day falls on what is traditionally "the morning after," and although it's also on a school night, many bars and restaurants are getting an early start with breakfast and brunch.

Citypoint hangout **Local 149** will serve Eggs and Kegs (eggs, bacon, toast and hash browns) from 9 to 11 a.m., then resume normal brunch — plus some Irish specials — until 2 p.m.

The **South Street Diner** serves as a special pre-South Boston Parade breakfast gathering place for police officers from all over the country. Grab bangers and eggs, or, later, a corned beef, cabbage and potato dinner and a Guinness ice cream float. Both are served all day. Each table will have a songbook of Irish limericks and toasts for a good old sing-along with the staff.

Back Bay pub **Solas** offers one of the best pours of the dark stuff this side of the Atlantic. St. Patrick's Day specials include Indian-spiced mulligatawny soup (it's a British Empire thing) made Irish with mutton, turnips and potatoes; corned beef with cabbage, turnips and tatties; and a banana bread pudding with a whiskey-infused caramel sauce.

And, how about a cuppa? For an exceptionally refined St. Pat's, **L'Espalier**'s Sunday tea includes finger sandwiches, pastries, petit fours and a cocktail of Irish whiskey with a tea infusion.

Over on the South Boston Waterfront, **TAMO**'s St. Patrick's Day lasts all weekend, with Irish spreads and breads (Guinness, cheddar and creamed spinach — it's green, right? — with soda bread), green soup (don't worry, it's pea), Guinness and beef stew with "shamrock mashed potatoes" (um, maybe worry about that one) and corned beef and cabbage. Finish with a Connemara coffee made with Bailey's and topped with whipped cream and a swirl of creme de menthe.

In Harvard Square, Irish-named and inspired **Grafton Street Pub & Grill** celebrates St. Patrick's Day on Saturday and Sunday, morning through night. Enjoy corned beef and cabbage with parsley sauce, shepherd's pie made properly with lamb, and Guinness beef stew.

Nearby, **UpStairs on the Square** features a traditional corned beef dinner, Guinness stew and bowls of chips in curry sauce. There goes that British Empire thing again; whatever, curry goes great with beer. Finish with liquid dessert: Irish coffee with sherry whipped cream.

Augment your liquid diet with complimentary corned beef sandwiches at **Irish Village**. Or, trot along to **dbar** and follow one of Boston's best Sunday brunches with daylong green beer specials.

Linda Laban
linda.laban@metro.us

Where to go

- **dBar**
  1236 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester
  www.dbar.com
- **TAMO**
  One Seaport Lane, Boston
  www.tamobar.com
- **Irish Village**
  224 Market St., Brighton
  www.irishvillagebrighton.com
- **L'Espalier**
  774 Boylston St., Boston
  www.lespalier.com
- **Local 149**
  149 P St., South Boston
  www.local149.com
- **Solas**
  710 Boylston St., Boston
  www.solasboston.com
- **South Street Diner**
  178 Kneeland St., Boston
  www.southstreetdiner.com
- **Grafton Street Pub & Grill**
  1230 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
  www.graftonstreet cambridge.com
- **UpStairs on the Square**
  91 Winthrop St., Cambridge
  www.upstairsonthesquare.com

And for those with a sweet tooth...

Sweet goes St. Pat's crazy Friday through Sunday with green and shamrock decorated cupcakes flavored with Irish coffee (espresso-infused cappuccino cake topped with Bailey's-infused whipped cream and dusted with cocoa) and Guinness (chocolate cake infused with Guinness, topped with vanilla buttercream laced with cocoa and Bailey's Irish Cream).

orders@sweetcupcakes.com 617-247-2253, www.sweetcupcakes.com

When it comes to sweet, **Green Briar** might just beat the lot with a Three Leaf Clover chocolate bread pudding made with Jameson, Bailey's and Guinness, topped with vanilla ice cream. Other more traditional Irish savory specials apply. 304 Washington St., Brighton 617-789-4100, www.greenbriarpub.com).

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On this day, bring your own bottle of water and receive the DROP OF THE HOLY OIL, and by faith, when you make use of that water, you will be cleansed and free from all evil and negativity!

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The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Jason Alexander is excited about the new pope, Judd Apatow is having trouble with technology, Garry Shandling sees a brighter future and Adam Scott is blowing your mind.

@IJasonAlexander
Ok, not trying to be cute, but the new Pope -- he looks like my Uncle Abe --- a Jew! So, Mazel Tov, Pope.

@JuddApatow
Screw you Apple iTunes updates! I don't trust you. Update someone else.

@GarryShandling
Don't worry - by the time I die technology will be so advanced you'll still be able to tweet me. And follow.

@mradamscott
Ralph Macchio is now the same age Pat Morita was when they shot The Karate Kid. Goodnight!

THE WORD

Meredith Engel's take on the world of gossip @meredithatmetro meredith.engel@metro.us

– Dorothy Robinson will return March 20.

Is Biebs the next LiLo?

▶ We kind of see a resemblance.

It hasn't been a good month for **Justin Bieber**. Fresh off a breakup with **Selena Gomez**, the 19-year-old superstar has canceled gigs (if he arrives at all), threatened to "f—ing beat the f—" out of a photographer, mourned his pet hamster and been treated with oxygen at the hospital. Could a drug-fueled downward spiral a la **Lindsay Lohan** be next? Not if the Biebs has anything to say about it.

"Everyone in my team has been telling me 'keep the press happy,' but I'm tired of all the countless lies in the press right now," the pop singer wrote on Instagram. "[They're] saying I'm going to rehab and how my family is disappointed in me. My family is beyond proud, and nothing's been said by them. My grandparents wouldn't know how to reach [the] press. ... If anyone believes I need rehab that's their own stupidity LOL."

He then took a jab at all the haters who want to compare him to the famous red-headed train wreck but deleted it quickly thereafter.

Bieber wrote: "To those comparing me to Lindsay Lohan look at her 2012 tax statements ;)"

Mr. Bieber, as a member of the press, I assure you that every time you blink, you keep us happy, because it's news to somebody. And no need to shy away from the Lohan blows — we're all with you on that one. But now that you mention it, I am curious about the actress's tax statements. I'm guessing you meant to say that you made a lot more money than her, but I'm interested in whether she'll write off her drug expenses as charity, because in a way she is giving to those in need — mainly, gossipmongers like myself hungry for daily content. So thanks, Linds, and keep up the good work!

Nicki Minaj late for 'Idol,' world explodes

Nicki Minaj was nowhere to be seen as "American Idol" went to air Wednesday night. Indeed, the rapper was 13 minutes late to Wednesday's live show because she got stuck in traffic, per People.com. She even missed the first performance of the evening before quietly slipping inside in a black hoodie and dark shades.

This is the first time this has happened in "Idol" history, which, when you think about it, is pretty miraculous, considering wackadoodles like **Paula Abdul** and **Steven Tyler**, plus the divalicious **Jennifer Lopez**, have sat on the panel in years past. Ryan Seacrest must run a tight ship — who knows how **Brian Dunkleman** would have fared in a situation like this. Oh, you don't remember the Dunks? Google him!

▶ I guess she wasn't that late, considering she lives on another planet.

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Oh, how the mighty have fallen

In other "Idol" news, **Sanjaya Malakar**, best remembered for that peacock-style mohawk he graced us with as a contestant in 2007, doesn't seem to be doing so hot post-show. The still-aspiring singer was just seen performing on the subway, according to In Touch Weekly. "He was singing '(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay,'" a witness told the magazine after spotting the 23-year-old in the First Avenue L station in New York City.

It's great when "Idol" castoffs keep their dreams alive. I bet the singing waiters at Johnny Rockets would happily welcome Sanjaya into their fraternity.

Talking points

So are Cyrus and Hemsworth done?

The breakup rumors about **Miley Cyrus** and **Liam Hemsworth** are reaching a fever pitch, with the New York Post claiming that the couple's engagement is officially off. "Miley and Liam are done — it's over," a source tells the newspaper. "She likes to party really hard and can be pretty wild. It became a problem for him." But Cyrus is reportedly still holding out hope of a reconciliation. "They do fight, but she is crazy about Liam," another source says, adding that Cyrus "isn't ready to accept it might be over for good."

Paltrow's kids go hungry

Gwyneth Paltrow is discovering that getting her family on a low-carb, gluten-free diet isn't exactly a painless endeavor. "Sometimes when my family is not eating pasta, bread or processed grains like white rice, we're left with that specific hunger that comes with avoiding carbs," she says in her new cookbook. But the pain is worth it, she adds: "Every single nutritionist, doctor and health-conscious person I have ever come across ... seems to concur that [gluten] is tough on the system."

▶ Paltrow

Kendrick's love life up in the air

Anna Kendrick has reportedly ended her four-year relationship with her "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World" director **Edgar Wright**, according to Us Weekly. "She's single," a source says. "It was done a little while ago." In her new life as a single gal, Kendrick has been ruminating about what life would be like on reality TV. "If I were a contestant on 'The Bachelor,' I'd just end up falling in love with the weird sound guy and making things uncomfortable for everyone," she joked recently on Twitter.

Mirren's pup in the doghouse

Helen Mirren had been having trouble with one of her canine co-stars in her new West End play "The Audience," leading to 7-year-old corgi Lizzy getting the axe, according to The Telegraph. The dog, who appeared as one of **Queen Elizabeth**'s pets in the play, failed to hit her cues 16 times before producers decided to replace her. "She was excited the first three times," director **Stephen Daldry** tells the newspaper. "And then I think she decided she didn't want to be an actress anymore."

Letters

letters@metro.us

GOP's deficit plan recipe for failure

RE: "REPUBLICANS UNVEIL PLAN TO SHRINK DEFICIT" (METRO, MARCH 13) Unfortunately, it doesn't seem the GOP leaders have learned a lesson from their defeat this past November. Otherwise they would not continuously demonstrate their backward mentality. One of the points in their recent budget proposal is no funds for high-speed rail program or any passenger rail improvements. That is, the GOP concept of "prosperity" implies the continuous lack of an efficient transportation option that has been so successful in certain European and Asian countries. I used to think that GOP's opposition to rail is fueled by auto lobby, but now I doubt even that because it doesn't seem that they care much about highways and aviation either. After all, aviation is to suffer serious cutbacks in sequester. And it's Democrats who call for $100 billion for road and bridge improvements. It rather seems that the main reason GOP opposes high-speed rail is because it's Obama who is calling for it, and the GOP ought to oppose anything and everything that Obama stands for. If they cared about the country rather than about their own political agenda, they would not deprive American citizens of reliable transportation and other useful things.

ARKADY BERKOWITZ, VIA E-MAIL

I'm disappointed Wednesday's article on the Republican's proposed budget plan missed some rather serious points. First, what few numbers it actually contains don't add up. Second, its planned privatization of Medicare and conversion of Medicaid will leave at least 35 million people without health insurance. Third, all credible analysis agrees that repealing Obamacare will cause the deficit to explode (again), not reduce it. Keep in mind this is the same budget that was rejected by American voters last November. This isn't a serious document and shouldn't be treated as such.

JOSEPH CONNELL, VIA E-MAIL

RE: "'SEQUESTER' HOT POTATO STARTED WITH PRESIDENT" (METRO, MARCH 14) Letter writer Sal Giarratani needs to get some air himself evidently after saying sequestration started with the Obama White House. It actually was created by three congressmen — two Republicans and one Democrat — and was passed as a doomsday threat to force Congress to do its job, and President Reagan not only signed it but praised it. A budget starts with President but then goes to Congress and THERE it was stuck as the House refused all compromise and efforts to stop sequestration. You cannot say the blame belongs to Obama for a process passed into law under Reagan and held up in Congress where the President has no authority until a bill comes to his desk for signing/veto. Obama does indeed bear some blame, he is the president, after all, but at least three-fourths of the blame is Congress because this is THIER job. If Sal wants to point fingers, he should point them at the Senate and the House because THAT is where the issue is — and yes, that includes both Democrats and Republicans.

DOUGLAS BROWN, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Even though you're aware of the right course of action to follow, you might lack the courage to take it. Don't take the easy way out if you can help it.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Don't prolong the agony of an overdue bill; it only gets more pronounced with time. Pay off what you can, no matter how small the amount. It all has a way of adding up.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** At times, you can be opinionated and reluctant to change your mind, even to accommodate others. But it could be worse to change your opinion for the wrong reasons.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Although your material aspects look very encouraging, you might not make the most of your opportunities. Don't let all the good things happening slip through your fingers.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** To be successful, you must be hopeful and secure in your situation. Try not to be influenced by the negative opinions of another.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** When you spot a quick victory, you're likely to handle yourself extremely well. Conversely, when tenacity is required, you might buckle under and make a poor showing.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Instead of telling a friend about the things that could go wrong with his or her idea, you should be supportive. If, by chance, your pal should blunder, an "I told you so" won't be appreciated.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Commercial dealings could be somewhat difficult for you at present. In certain situations you should do well, but be prepared for a few failures as well.

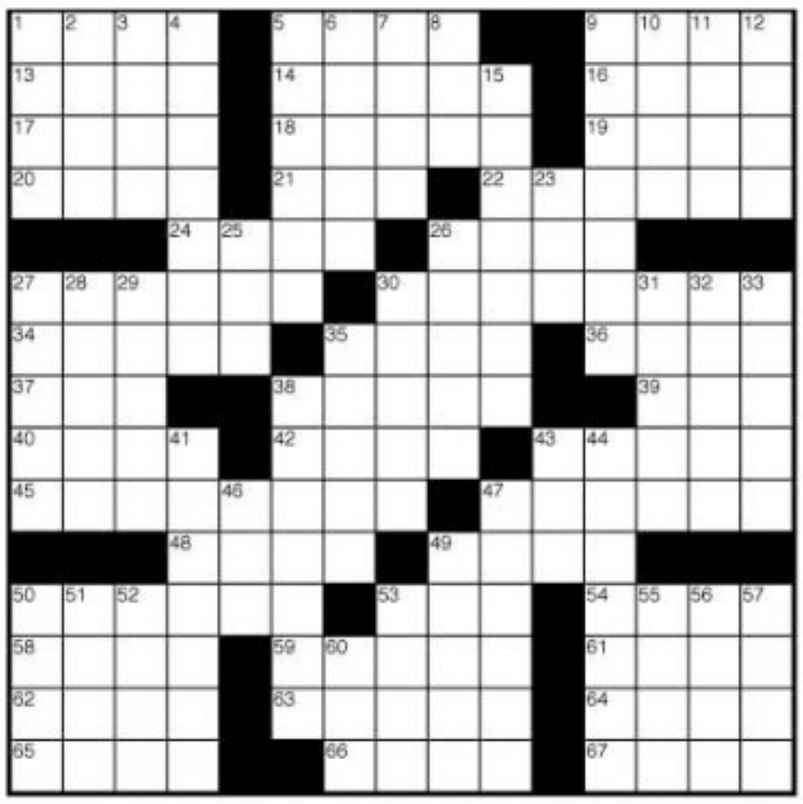
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** When it comes to an important negotiation, you need to know exactly what you're agreeing to. Take plenty of time to study things thoroughly in order to spot any flaws.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Doing business with friends can be more frustrating and less profitable than dealing with strangers. Give your pal the best deal you can, but don't be taken advantage of.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** There's a chance you could get drawn into a situation that includes someone you personally dislike. Do your best to hide your feelings from all involved.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** You're inclined to be helpful to another, provided the initiative to do so originates with you. However, anyone who makes a demand on you is likely to see another facet of your personality. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Type of pasta
5 Bring to an end
9 Greed's cousin
13 Harrow rival
14 Bolivia's capital (2 wds.)
16 "The — -Motion"
17 Brain, maybe
18 Chicago airport
19 — the hatchet
20 All, in combos
21 The nearest star
22 Maria Conchita —
24 Connors' adversary
26 Break ground
27 By and large
30 Greatly cheered (2 wds.)
34 Mineral analysis
35 Battery word
6 Sup well
37 IRS form expert
38 Belly-dance props
39 Legal rep.
40 Jalopy
42 Electric swimmers
43 Gainsay
45 Opens a purse
47 Orders around
48 Music and dance
49 Cat scanners?
50 Sign after Taurus
53 Green parrot
54 Barking noises
58 Large carnivore
59 Scrawny
61 The Force guru
62 Sarah — Jewett
63 Happen next
64 DeMille genre
65 Hold up well
66 Later on
67 Pack of cards



Down
1 Stoic founder
2 Bit of gossip
3 Tattered
4 Adventurer — Jones
5 Muddy
6 Lake near Reno
7 Fiery gem
8 Average
9 Jostled
10 Subject or object
11 TV hookups
12 Fluctuate (hyph.)
15 Fanatics
23 Myrna of old movies
25 Furtive
26 Yanks
27 Temple city — Picchu
28 Rocky Mountain tree
29 Asimov or Hayes
30 Purifies water
31 Gauges
32 Loosen
33 Townshend and Seeger
35 Running mates
38 Trace
41 Blunter
43 Plant sci.
44 Attempted
46 Son of Prince Valiant
47 Defeated
49 Olympic site
50 Look radiant
51 The Emerald Isle
52 "— Lisa"
53 Old name for Sudan
55 Tug-of-war need
56 Acct. insurer
57 Potato buy
60 Diligent insect

			5					7
5			4			3		
1		2					9	
9	5		2			7	8	3
3								1
7	2	4			3		5	6
	3					4		2
		6			1			5
4					7			

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

	7		5	1	6			8
		5		3	8			
6		8			2			7
	6					1		
2				4				3
		4					6	
8			1			6		4
			8	2		9		
5			3	6	4		7	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Solution to Thursday's crossword

B	O	D	E	■	R	O	A	N	S	■	A	T	O	M
O	V	E	R	■	A	P	R	I	L	■	I	A	G	O
R	A	J	A	■	D	E	I	C	E	■	R	I	L	L
E	L	A	S	T	I	C	■	E	N	A	B	L	E	D
■	■	■	■	E	E	O	■	■	D	N	A	■	■	■
J	O	U	R	N	E	Y	■	B	E	A	G	L	E	S
U	R	L	S	■	D	E	B	A	R	■	S	E	R	A
D	I	N	■	■	G	A	G	■	■	G	N	U	■	■
G	O	A	D	■	A	G	N	E	S	■	R	A	I	D
E	N	S	I	G	N	S	■	L	O	R	E	L	E	I
■	■	■	S	A	O	■	■	N	A	P	■	■	■	■
D	Y	N	A	S	T	Y	■	M	A	N	A	G	E	R
A	V	E	R	■	H	A	B	I	T	■	V	A	L	E
R	E	A	M	■	E	L	E	N	A	■	E	R	I	E
T	S	P	S	■	R	E	N	D	S	■	D	Y	E	D

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Embrace the old, ugly

Boston's 'grumpy old men' in green still a blast to watch Title dreams may be nonexistent without Rondo, but we can appreciate these Celtics

CAMERON BROWNE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett are back at it Saturday night against the Bobcats (7:30 p.m., CSN).

Opinion

There is something to be said for simply enjoying something for what it is. And that's how I feel about watching the Rajon Rondo-less Boston Celtics. Since Kevin Garnett arrived in 2007, the Celtics have played a combined 551 regular-season and postseason games.

Spoiler alerts aside, we have an idea of how the finale of this story is likely to end. Rondo was the puncher in Boston's "puncher's chance" to beat the Miami Heat in June.

Still, here the Celtics are: scrapping together wins, hanging around and surviving. This is counterintuitive, but removing championship aspirations from the equation has subconsciously enhanced the viewing experience. You stop worrying so much and start appreciating the small stuff: Avery Bradley's zero-tolerance defense, Jason Terry's misplaced confidence, Jeff Green's two-way growth, Paul Pierce's old-man game, Garnett's motor, Jordan Crawford's curious shot selection, Chris Wilcox's hustle, Brandon Bass' potential and Brandon Bass' shortcomings. Most of all, you appreciate that the Celtics still believe in themselves.

"I think we're going to be that team that nobody wants to play in the playoffs. Right now we're so unpredictable," Pierce said in an interview with NBA.com's David Aldridge. "You don't know what we're capable [of]. You look up and we play teams, sometimes we lose to bad teams, and then we beat the better teams. We don't know which Boston team is going to show up, and at any given moment we can get hot and beat the best of the best in the NBA."

The Rondo-less Celtics are a beautiful disaster. The uglier the game gets, the better they perform. Watching it unfold feels like sports masochism.

Offensively Boston lacks flow and lives on mid-range jumpers (the C's rank in the bottom-six of the league in shots attempted in the paint). But the Celtics make up for it with tenacious defense.

They're 15-1 when allowing fewer than 90 points. In the last 20 games, they rank second in defensive rating (allowing 97 points per 100 possessions) and third in opponents' effective field goal percentage (an advanced statistic that adjusts basic field goal percentage to account for 3-pointers).

I was entrenched in the anti-Blow It Up camp around the trade deadline. I reasoned trading Pierce or Garnett prevents younger players, like Avery Bradley and Jeff Green from playing in competitive games that could help their growth. I lied to myself, though. I couldn't bring myself to quit on the Celtics because they refuse to quit on themselves. They're a group of grumpy old men, so stubbornly persistent it's maddening. The Celtics aren't going to change. I can appreciate that; although, as Pierce alluded to, come playoff time, I don't think the rest of the NBA will.

Ryan Hadfield
sports@metro.us

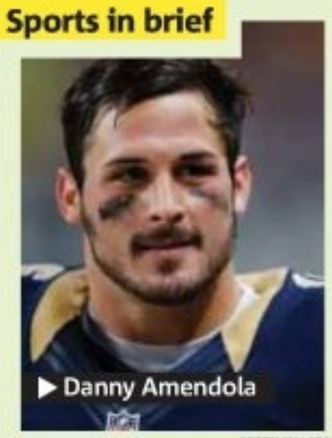
In the news

Welker takes the (mile) high road

Wes Welker didn't offer much in the form of bulletin board material at his press conference in Denver on Thursday.

"I'd definitely like to thank New England for the six years there and all the trust and everything they put in me."

Sports in brief



▶ Danny Amendola

GETTY IMAGES

Timeline of Amendola signing in question

As Wednesday's "will-he-stay-or-will-he-go?" drama surrounding Wes Welker played out over Twitter, the Patriots may have already had Welker's replacement signed.

Comcast New England's Tom E. Curran reported Thursday that the Patriots had actually signed Danny Amendola on Tuesday. The agreement between the Patriots and Amendola wasn't made public until Wednesday night, several hours after Welker and the Broncos made their deal public.

"We are excited about Danny's addition to the team and we look forward to beginning work with him this spring and into the future," Pats coach Bill Belichick said in a press release.

MATT BURKE

Bruins' Kelly out indefinitely

Bruins center Chris Kelly suffered a broken leg earlier this week in a shootout win over the Senators and will be out indefinitely.

The 32-year-old had two goals and four assists this season. METRO/MB

Weekend, March 15-17, 2013

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Probate and Family Court
Estate of: Pauline J. Renzi
Date of Death: October 23, 2012
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
PO Box 9667 Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of **Anthony J. Renzi, Sr.** of Brighton MA a will has been admitted to informal probate. **Anthony J. Renzi, Sr.** of Brighton, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

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